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Japan

Unadjusted Trade Surplus With U.S. Reported

OW1804070994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Japan's merchandise trade surplus rose 4.2 percent in March from the same month a year earlier to 13,952 million dollars, the Finance Ministry said Monday [18 April]. That fourth straight month of gains brought the fiscal 1993 to a record 121,993 million dollars, the ministry said in a preliminary monthly report.

March exports rose 5.3 percent from a year earlier to 36,513 million dollars, while imports rose 6.0 percent to 22,561 million dollars, the ministry said.

The March rise in the customs-cleared trade surplus followed preliminary rises of 3.3 percent in February, 17.0 percent in January, 15.5 percent in December and a 2.2 percent fall in November that snapped 34 months of consecutive year-on-year growth.

Japan registered an unadjusted surplus of 4,961 million dollars in its trade with the United States.

Trade Surplus at 'Record' High

OW1804100394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—A fourth straight gain by Japan's trade surplus in March boosted the politically sensitive figure 10.0 percent for fiscal 1993 to a record 121.99 billion dollars, the Finance Ministry said Monday [18 April].

The strong yen boosted the value of exports in closely watched dollar terms, widening the surplus even as the imbalance narrowed in terms of yen for the month and the fiscal year, a ministry official said in explaining the preliminary report.

For March, the merchandise trade surplus expanded 4.2 percent on a customs-cleared basis from the same month a year before to 13,952 million dollars.

The black ink with the United States swelled 21.1 percent in March to 4.96 billion dollars, after a decline in February from the year-earlier level. For the fiscal year ended March 31, the surplus rose for the third year in a row, up 11.8 percent to 51.14 billion dollars.

But that regional surplus was exceeded for the first time by the fiscal year surplus with Asia, where booming regional economies sucked up a markedly bigger chunk of Japan's exports, the official said.

Overall, both imports and exports of semiconductors surged in the month. Exports of audio equipment declined and auto exports, although up sharply to the U.S., fell overall.

Imports of crude oil and petroleum products sank in dollar and yen terms as prices fell, even though volume edged higher. Imports of computers and other office equipment rose, however.

The Japanese currency was up 12.2 percent in March from a year before to an average 105.07 yen to the dollar and up 15.7 percent for the fiscal year to 108.17 yen, the official said.

The higher yen continues to inflate Japan's surplus in dollar terms, although theoretically it eventually curbs the surplus by hiking Japanese export prices in foreign currencies while making imports cheaper in yen.

In yen terms, the trade surplus fell 7.0 percent in March from a year before to 1,467 billion yen and declined 4.7 percent for the fiscal year to 13,175 billion yen.

Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito noted that the yen-based surplus fell for a third straight fiscal year.

In volume terms, Japan's surplus "is clearly declining," he told a regular news conference after the report was issued. The rise in the dollar-denominated surplus was mainly caused by the "price factor"—the effect of the high yen—Saito said.

He indicated he sees no reason for new measures to boost Japan's domestic demand, a key request from Washington, expressing hope that the fiscal 1994 budget and recent fiscal stimulus packages will spur domestic demand. But he acknowledged that budget debate, hamstrung by political turmoil, has not begun.

Japan's March surplus with the U.S. rose as exports climbed 12.6 percent in dollar terms from a year before, outstripping a 6.1 percent rise in imports.

Exports of autos to the recovering U.S. economy were up 14 percent while semiconductor exports jumped 34 percent, the report said. But exports of audio equipment sank 22 percent.

Japan's U.S. imports included a 65 percent jump for meat and a 33 percent rise in alcoholic beverages. Even among high-value-added products, imports of U.S. autos soared 43 percent and those of semiconductors climbed 14 percent.

Such figures show "a significant change in the structure of trade" between the world's two biggest economies, said Mineko Sasaki-Smith, senior economist at Morgan Stanley Japan Ltd. But the dollar-denominated surplus will remain high for some time, she said.

Japan's surplus with Asia rose 11.3 percent in March from a year before in the 23rd straight gain to 6.53 billion dollars. That helped send the fiscal year surplus up a thumping 25.1 percent to 55.95 billion dollars to exceed the imbalance with the U.S. for the first time ever, the Finance Ministry's official told reporters.

The surplus to the region's newly industrializing economies has exceeded that with the U.S. since fiscal 1991, but rising exports to such other Asian nations as Pakistan and India sent the regional total markedly higher, he said.

Japan's trade gap with the European Union, however, slimmed 21.0 percent in March to 2.27 billion dollars in the third straight monthly drop. For the fiscal year, the surplus slumped 21.8 percent to 24.25 billion dollars.

Chinese Envoy Urges Investment In Inland Areas

*OW1804074294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0702
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Chinese Ambassador to Japan Xu Dunxin urged Japanese companies Monday [18 April] to invest not only in China's seaside areas but also in the inland, saying inland areas have a great potential for development.

"It's timely to advance into the inland now," said Xu, speaking to Japanese business executives at a KYODO NEWS SERVICE-sponsored lecture session at a Tokyo hotel. He said China's vast southwestern areas have rich natural resources and a low-cost labor force.

"The inland areas have weak points in transportation and infrastructure...but Japan is good at these fields and thus has a lot it can do there," Xu said. He said the Chinese Government has also increased its infrastructure investment in inland areas.

Xu also said China will continue efforts to bring a "peaceful and amicable" solution to problems related to North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development, saying such efforts so far have helped. However, he asked international society not to expect too much of Beijing, adding China is not among the parties directly concerned with the matter.

Hata Returns From Marrakech Conference 17 Apr

*OW1704035394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0313
GMT 17 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, a central figure in the current political development in Japan and a possible successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, returned to Tokyo on Sunday [17 April] morning from Marrakech, Morocco.

In Marrakech, he attended a four-day ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) member nations to sign the final agreement of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Hata, a front-runner to succeed the outgoing prime minister, hinted at a possible tie-up with former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), who has expressed his readiness to run for the upcoming Diet vote for the premiership.

Watanabe, head of the LDP's third largest faction, also has disclosed his readiness to form a new alliance with Shinseitō [Japan Renewal Party] and Komeitō [Clean Government Party], the two key parties in the ruling coalition.

Hata told reporters at Haneda Airport, "I would like to respect his determination. He is fit to be a leader."

Hata said, "I have never said whether or not I strengthened my resolution," when asked by reporters about the possibility of his candidacy for the next premiership. He also opposed a speed-before-quality Diet election for the next premier, urging sufficient discussion and preparation.

Ruling Coalition Executives Meet 16 Apr

*OW1604100894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0950
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—The ruling coalition parties hope to hammer out an accord Monday [18 April] on fundamental policies for a new coalition government to succeed the one led by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, coalition officials said Saturday.

At a meeting of their executives, the ruling parties started efforts to synchronize policies on such key issues as political reform, Tokyo's stand to be taken toward North Korea's alleged nuclear arms program, its international contributions and tax reform, the officials said.

New party Sakigake, one of the coalition parties which declared Friday that it will not take a post in a new cabinet, did not send its representative to the meeting.

The senior coalition officials confirmed the ruling parties will stick with a policy accord reached before the startup of the Hosokawa administration last August, Social Democratic Party (SDP) secretary general Wataru Kubo told a news conference.

Kubo also said the parties should reach an agreement calling for early Diet approval of the already overdue fiscal 1994 budget as the next government's "urgent and most important task."

If a broad agreement is reached on basic policies at the secretary general-level of coalition executives at their next meeting Monday afternoon, leaders of the coalition parties will hold a summit to give a stamp of approval, said Kubo of the SDP, the largest coalition contingent.

The policy discussions followed a week of political turmoil triggered by Hosokawa's abrupt decision to call it quits on April 8. Hosokawa, who shot to power last August, will remain on board until his successor is chosen.

On the stance Japan will take toward North Korea's suspected nuclear arms program, the SDP, which has traditionally maintained close ties with the (North)

Korean Workers' Party, will not face difficulties in working out a common policy, Kubo said.

"We will honor a UN decision and strive to do all we can within the bounds of the constitution," he said, in a reference to the SDP's readiness to respect the possibility of UN sanctions against the communist country.

At Saturday's meeting, the ruling party representatives concurred on the need to solve the question of how to define the role of Japan-U.S. security arrangements, Kubo and other coalition officials said.

They also reaffirmed that the ruling parties will continue their talks on tax system reform, a topic on which the coalition parties' policies are way apart, the officials said.

After the coalition chiefs decide on the final shape of a policy agreement, the ruling parties will move to nominate Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata as a candidate to succeed Hosokawa.

Hata, concurrently serving as deputy prime minister, will return to Japan on Sunday from Marrakech, Morocco, where he represented Japan at a ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to sign a new global trade pact.

Meanwhile, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president Yohei Kono and veteran faction leader Michio Watanabe will hold a second round of talks on Monday to compare notes on who should be the main opposition's candidate in an upcoming Diet vote for the premiership, LDP officials said.

LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori and Masaaki Nakayama, secretary general of Watanabe's faction, the LDP's third largest power bloc, reached the agreement in a Saturday morning meeting, the officials said.

The accord came one day after Kono and Watanabe failed to reach a compromise on the LDP's candidate for premier.

During Friday's session, Kono asked Watanabe not to break with the LDP but to help maintain the unity of the once-dominant party.

Watanabe, however, expressed his willingness to form a new alliance with Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and Komeito, the two key forces in the ruling coalition, in order to "surmount the crises now confronting this country."

The LDP, toppled from power last August after 38 years of unbroken rule, is currently Japan's largest opposition party and is still the single biggest party. It controls 214 members in the 511-member House of Representatives.

In a related move, Nakayama told reporters the Watanabe faction will retract its demand for an LDP

endorsement of their chief as the prime ministerial candidate if the governing coalition decides to sweep Hata to the premiership.

Summary of Draft for Coalition's Policy Accord

*OW1604133894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Following is a summary of a draft of the ruling coalition's fundamental policy accord proposed Saturday [16 April] by the Japan New Party of outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. The ruling parties hope to agree Monday on their policy accord to be carried out under a new government led by Hosokawa's successor.

(Budget and Financial Reform)

Ruling parties will endeavor to speedily enact 1994 budget bills on which the Diet has not even begun deliberations. The ruling parties will endeavor to swiftly agree on drawing up of 1995 budget bills that should be consumer-oriented.

(Political Reform)

The coalition will swiftly submit bills to the Diet on locations of 300 single-seat constituencies for House of Representatives elections, based on advice to be made in six months by a panel.

After enacting the bills, the coalition will carry out a lower house general election under a new electoral system under which 300 of the 500 lower house members will be elected from single-seat districts and the remaining 200 through proportional representation.

(Korean Peninsula and Japan's Security)

The situation on the Korean peninsula, including North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development, is a quite serious matter for Asian and Japanese security. The international community should cooperate to impede the development of nuclear arms on the Korean peninsula.

The coalition also thinks it important to resolve the issue through persistent negotiations, in cooperation with such countries as the United States, China and South Korea, not to make North Korea isolated in international society.

Japan will secure peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in Japan, abiding by the policy of the United Nations and preparing for emergencies.

The coalition recognizes that Japan's Constitution has an ultimate ideal based on the international collective security under the UN. In order to secure world peace and Japan's security, Japan will adhere to the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and actively participate in UN peace-keeping activities.

(Japan-U.S. Relations and International Cooperation)

As a premise for solidifying friendly relationship between Japan and the U.S., Japan will endeavor to reduce its trade surplus step by step to an appropriate level.

Japan will swiftly enact international agreements and laws related to the conclusion of the Uruguay Round trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

(Aging Society and Tax Reform)

The coalition will establish welfare policies to tackle the problems of the aging society. The coalition will promote constructing infrastructures for higher standards of living.

On condition that bureaucracy and finance will be reformed, the coalition will endeavor to secure a source of revenue to offset a tax reduction. Japan will carry out by the end of the year a drastic tax system reform which will center on reviewing the balance between direct and indirect taxes.

(Deregulation and Other Economic Reform)

The coalition will adopt thorough measures to make the recovery of the economy more certain. The coalition will change economic structures by promoting information and communications industries, new industries and small- and medium-sized enterprises.

The coalition will loosen regulations in order to foster international cooperation in the field of economic activities.

(Decentralization and Other Administrative Reform)

The coalition aims to simplify and streamline the administration and positively promote decentralization.

(Development of Rural Areas and Agricultural Reform)

The coalition will endeavor to promote agricultural, forestry and fisheries areas in order to raise Japan's self-sufficiency rates. The coalition will help introduce market methods for production, distribution and sales system of agricultural products and aid reform in agricultural cooperatives.

(Constructing Foundation of People's Lives)

The coalition considers education as the basis of the country and will endeavor to realize a society where men and women live harmoniously and equally and where people can lead a fulfilled life.

Disagreement Over Hosokawa Successor Continues

Hata Emerges as 'Favorite' 16 Apr

OW1604154394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1506
GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata emerged as the favorite Saturday night [16 April] to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa as the ruling coalition reached basic agreement on key policies, coalition sources said. The sources said deputies of the ruling coalition parties will resume talks on Monday to finalize the accord and send it to the heads of the coalition parties, who will then decide to choose Hata, 58, as their candidate for premiership.

Parliamentary balloting for the next prime minister is likely to take place either April 19 or 20 and Hata, who is also deputy premier, will become the new Japanese leader.

Saturday's agreement was bad news for former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe of the largest opposition Liberal Democratic Party, who sources said may decide not to run for prime minister because of a lack of support.

Hata left Marrakech, Morocco on Friday morning for Tokyo after attending high-level talks and signing a new global trade pact.

Watanabe will hold a second round of talks with LDP President Yohei Kono on Monday in which Kono will try to talk 70-year-old Watanabe into abandoning his plans to succeed Hosokawa, 56, LDP sources said.

Watanabe has toyed with an idea of quitting the LDP and seeking an alliance with Shinseito [Japan renewal Party], of which Hata is leader, and Komeito [Clean Government Party], in a bid to become the next prime minister. But sources close to the Watanabe faction inside the LDP predicted that Watanabe would drop plans to run for premiership.

During the meeting of the deputies, the ruling parties ironed out their differences over such key issues as political reform, Tokyo's policy toward North Korea's alleged nuclear arms program, its international contributions and tax reform, officials said.

New party Sakigake [Harbinger Party], one of the coalition parties which declared Friday that it will not take a post in a new cabinet, did not send its representative to the meeting.

The senior coalition officials confirmed the ruling parties will stick with a policy accord reached before the startup of the Hosokawa administration last August, Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ] Secretary General Wataru Kubo told a news conference.

Kubo also said the parties should reach an agreement calling for early Diet approval of the already overdue fiscal 1994 budget as the next government's "urgent and most important task."

The policy discussions followed a week of political turmoil triggered by Hosokawa's abrupt decision to call it quits on April 8.

On the stance Japan will take toward North Korea's suspected nuclear arms program, the SDP, which has traditionally maintained close ties with the (North) Korean Workers' Party, will not face difficulties in working out a common policy, Kubo said. "We will honor a U.N. decision and strive to do all we can within the bounds of the Constitution," he said, in a reference to the SDP's readiness to respect the possibility of U.N. sanctions against the communist country.

At Saturday's meeting, the ruling party representatives concurred on the need to solve the question of how to define the role of Japan-U.S. security arrangements, Kubo and other coalition officials said.

Ichikawa, Kubo, Kano Comment

OW1704061594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607
GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—A key ruling political player indicated Sunday [17 April] the governing coalition will not back former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as new prime minister.

Komeito [Clean Government Party] Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa said in TV programs, "The coalition parties are making efforts to establish a sense of unity over policies within the current framework of the coalition. There will be no major changes under the current situation."

Watanabe has expressed his readiness to leave the LDP to challenge the premiership, but Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, head of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], a core party in the seven-party coalition, is emerging as a front-runner to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Hata returned home earlier Sunday from Morocco, where he attended a ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, to plunge himself into a race for prime ministership.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, Hata, however, was evasive in answering a question whether he will enter into a race for premiership. "I have never said whether or not I strengthened my resolution," the foreign minister tersely said.

However, Ichikawa, one of the main strategists in the coalition, welcomed Watanabe's move, saying the possible secession of the head of one of the LDP's power

blocs will facilitate a split of the LDP, in power for 38 years until last August when it was ousted by Hosokawa's coalition.

Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan—SDPJ], said in a TV program Sunday the SDP will not vote for Watanabe in the upcoming Diet premiership election.

The official of the largest power bloc in the coalition was responding to a question about the SDP's reaction if Watanabe were to run for the premiership vote. Kubo, when asked about a coalition candidate for the next prime minister, said the SDP will respect a coalition agreement.

Ichikawa showed his willingness for a would-be tie-up with an LDP splinter group headed by Michihiko Kano, a former state minister in charge of the Management and Coordination Agency. He said he has no reason to reject cooperation with Kano's group if Kano expresses his intention for a tie-up and if the coalition is able to reach an accord on major policies with his group.

Kano, who seceded from the LDP on Friday, indicated during a TV program Sunday that his five-member group may support Hata for the Diet premiership election, saying, "I have promoted political reforms together with Mr. Hata and I have an understanding of his political posture."

Hata, with his close associate Ichiro Ozawa, bolted the LDP last summer and inaugurated Shinseito in order to form a coalition with other non-LDP parties.

Kano said they will not vote for LDP President Yohei Kono as they have withdrawn from the conservative party. Kono plans to stand as a candidate for the nation's top administrative post.

Political Figures Interviewed

OW1704142394

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese on 17 April broadcasts at 0000 GMT its "Sunday Discussion" (Nichiyo Toron) political talk show. This episode is 120-minutes long, is moderated by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto, and carries separate live interviews with Masayoshi Takemura, representative of Sakigake (Harbinger); Wataru Kubo, general secretary of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ); Komeito secretary general Yuichi Ichikawa; Shinseito Acting Chief Secretary Kozo Watanabe; Michihiko Kano, one of five former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members who recently left the LDP; Koji Kakizawa, member of the LDP's Watanabe faction; and Shigeru Kasuya, acting LDP secretary general. Freelance commentator Naoki Tanaka also joins the program as an interviewer.

At 0003 GMT, after a short video clip reviewing moves by the coalition toward forming the new government, and the split in the LDP, Yamamoto starts interviewing

Sakigake head Takemura, who recently said that his party will not take any posts in the new cabinet but will support the new cabinet. He says his party will cooperate with the new government in tackling such immediate issues as enactment of the budget bill because his party has responsibility to carry out tasks assigned to the outgoing Hosokawa government in which Sakigake was one of the coalition partners. He stresses the next prime minister should be chosen at a meeting of heads of each ruling party. In connection with this, Takemura expresses doubts about Shinseito Secretary General Ozawa's political methods, questioning Ozawa's initiative in making decisions in the ruling coalition while citing specific examples such as debates on a consumption tax hike.

Asked if his party will stand against the new coalition government after carrying out such tasks as enactment of the budget bill, Takemura says: "No, we are not thinking of taking a stand against the coalition." He notes his party's position depends on what policies the new coalition will come up with. Asked whether his party will support Foreign Minister Hata as the new prime minister if other ruling parties agree to choose him as successor to Hosokawa, Takemura says: "Yes, we are determined to support him." Asked if there is any possibility that his party will support LDP Vice President Watanabe as candidate for the new premiership, he says: "Actually we have not discussed such a possibility yet." On the secession of five LDP members, including former Management and Coordination Agency Director General Kano from the party, Takemura says: "I strongly hope to join hands with them in the near future." The interview ends at 0026 GMT.

The second interviewee, SDPJ General Secretary Kubo, joins the program through a satellite hookup. Kubo first explains the differences in views between the current coalition group and Sakigake on how to form the new cabinet. Commentator Tanaka then notes he does not believe that in the new government, the SDPJ will not take ministerial posts of foreign affairs and finance as well as defense affairs because of the party's differing position from other parties on such issues as North Korea, and asks Kubo to comment. Kubo says: "Our party has not discussed the line-up of the new cabinet." Kubo goes on to say that there are no big differences between the SDPJ and other ruling parties over policies. On the issue concerning North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons, he notes: "The SDPJ insists that North Korea should accept nuclear inspections and remain as a member of the NPT. There is no difference in policies on this matter between the ruling parties. If North Korea rejects inspections, our party will make efforts to settle the issue with emphasis on dialogue. I think an agreement will be reached among the ruling parties on this matter. If the situation should become worse, we have to respect the decisions of the United Nations." He adds: "While respecting decisions of the United Nations, Japan has to make all-out efforts to do what it has to do within the limits of the Constitution."

Kubo then discusses the SDPJ's position on such issues as tax and administrative reform.

Asked whether the SDPJ will possibly support LDP's Watanabe as a candidate for the premiership, Kubo rules it out, saying: "One hundred percent, no." Kubo says he thinks Shinseito's Hata is also a qualified person for the premiership. Kubo notes the premiership election should be held as early as possible so the new cabinet will be formed soon. The interview ends at 0048 GMT.

The third interviewee is Komeito secretary general Ichikawa. Asked whether the framework of the ruling coalition is changing amid the current political turmoil, Ichikawa says he does not think so, but blames Takemura for the deterioration of the coalition's framework. Ichikawa denies allegations that he and Shinseito's Ozawa act high-handedly in the ruling coalition, noting the decision-making process of the coalition is transparent. He then discusses Komeito's position on such issues as tax reform.

Asked whether it is true that the present political confusion stems from conflict between Sakigake's Takemura and Ozawa of Shinseito, Ichikawa denies it. Asked what the ruling coalition will do if the LDP's Watanabe should leave, Ichikawa says: "If he, who is a leader of his own faction and has experience as deputy prime minister, leaves the LDP, regardless of the number of those who follow him, it will create a sensation." He adds: "We are watching Mr. Watanabe's moves and, in this sense, we will welcome him if he secedes from the LDP." He then notes it is possible to tie up with another former LDP group led by Mr. Kano, who recently seceded from the LDP. The interview concludes at 0110 GMT.

Following Ichikawa, Shinseito acting Secretary General Kozo Watanabe is interviewed. Watanabe first notes that an agreement is expected to be reached among the ruling parties on the basic policies of the new cabinet. He also says after reaching an official agreement on basic policies tomorrow, the ruling coalition will decide on who should be a candidate for the premiership. Asked if Shinseito actually hopes to reorganize the framework of the coalition in cooperation with would-be defectors from the LDP, while kicking the SDPJ out of the coalition, Watanabe says: "It will never happen." Asked how Shinseito will react if the LDP's Watanabe seeks Shinseito's support in the prime ministerial election, he says: "It is presumptuous to comment on this matter" because the ruling coalition is to meet on 18 April to decide on a candidate for the premiership. Watanabe says Shinseito welcomes the departure of former Management and Coordination Agency Director General Kano and his colleagues from the LDP. The interview ends at 0125 GMT.

Michihiko Kano, who recently seceded from the LDP, is asked why he left the LDP. Kano says he felt it was difficult to achieve political reform under the current framework of the LDP. He also notes he left the LDP to work on regaining public trust in politics. He discusses

the need for the LDP to dissolve the faction system and adopt the age-limit system. Kano stresses he plans to form a new party in the near future with other defectors. The interview ends at 0139 GMT.

Koji Kakizawa, a member of the LDP's Watanabe faction, and acting LDP secretary general Shigeru Kasuya are interviewed next. Asked why LDP Vice President Watanabe wants to become the next prime minister, Kakizawa explains that Watanabe is eager to tackle various domestic and foreign problems. Kasuya says it is hoped that Watanabe will stay in the LDP. Kasuya criticizes those who have left the LDP, or plan to leave the party. Asked about the possibility that the LDP will support Watanabe as a sole LDP candidate for prime minister, Kasuya rules out such a possibility.

The program concludes at 0200 GMT.

Coalition Moving To Choose Hata

OW1804043894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0429
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—The ruling coalition was moving Monday [17 April] toward selecting Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata as the successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, political sources said. Representatives of the coalition will agree Monday afternoon on a policy platform for the formation of a new government and coalition chiefs are likely to sign the accord the same day, coalition sources said.

Veteran politician Michio Watanabe, 70, of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), who expressed his intention Sunday to leave the party in a bid for the premiership, hoping to gain the backing of the ruling coalition, will make a final decision on the proposed move Monday, faction sources said.

LDP President Yohei Kono Will meet Watanabe again at 1:30 P.M. [0430 GMT] Monday to attempt to dissuade him from leaving the party, LDP sources said.

Kono, who has himself vowed to run in the Diet election as his party's official candidate, urged Watanabe on Friday to drop his ambitions for the premiership in order to maintain party unity but met with no success.

Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], the largest party in the seven-party coalition, said Monday he opposes nominating Watanabe as the coalition's candidate for premiership, party officials said. He made the remark at a meeting with Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party, the officials said.

Murayama also expressed opposition to Watanabe being invited to join the next cabinet in a position such as deputy prime minister, they said.

A senior member of the Watanabe faction in the House of Councillors said Watanabe may not quit the party.

Watanabe said Sunday, "I have a conviction that a cabinet of national salvation should be formed to overcome the present difficult situation."

"I could not become (prime minister) only with LDP support. As I have to ask for the support of many people, I will naturally renounce my party membership," he said.

But so far, only some 20 LDP members are expected to quit the party to follow Watanabe if he decides to make the break.

Meanwhile, five LDP House of Representatives members who support Watanabe's bid for the premiership quit the party Monday. They are Seiichi Ota, Taku Yamamoto, Shizuo Sato, Koji Kakizawa and Shokei Arai. They are members of a suprafactional study group in the LDP called the "liberals."

Another LDP lower house member, Kenji Kosaka, quit the party Monday. He said he will join Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], a key party in the coalition.

Five other LDP lower house members who quit the party Friday, led by Michihiko Kano, former director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, formed a new party Monday called New Party Mirai (Future).

Fumihiko Igarashi, a lower house member of Hosokawa's Japan New Party, told reporters he and two other members will quit the party and act as independents.

Kano hinted that the new five-legislator party may throw its parliamentary weight behind a prime ministerial candidate who is backed by the ruling coalition.

Kano expressed his party's willingness to take part in the ongoing policy-making discussions now under way among the seven coalition parties. The talks, which began last Saturday, are aimed at reconciling coalition members' differences in key areas of policy.

"If we and the ruling coalition could reach an agreement to share the same policies, then we could cast our ballots to nominate as the next prime minister a candidate recommended by the coalition side," he said.

Kano also called on other LDP legislators to join his new party.

"I call on people who once tried to accomplish political reform, together with us, to be courageous and take actions in order to bring about a realignment of the political community," he said.

Kano said he "has given high marks to both" Hata and Watanabe as able politicians.

He said, "although Mr. Watanabe expressed views different from ours regarding political reform, I commend him for his intention" to break with the LDP.

New Party Mirai will advocate as its tenets an emphasis on the wishes of the public, compliance with public promises, contributions to U.N.-led peace-building efforts, expansion of the social infrastructure and transfer of the central government's administrative authority to local governments, party officials said.

Vote on Prime Minister Delayed

OW1804102994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1018
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—The House of Representatives Steering Committee decided Monday to postpone to 1 P.M. [0400 GMT] Tuesday a decision on the timing of a Diet plenary session to choose Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's successor.

Committee members decided on the postponement in order to monitor the views of the coalition parties and the leading opposition Liberal Democratic Party.

The postponement means a vote on a successor to Hosokawa will not take place until on or after Wednesday, parliamentary sources said. Hosokawa announced on April 8 that he would resign as prime minister.

Defections From Parties Threatened, Reported

Table of 15 Apr Diet Representation

OW1504105994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009
GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The following is a table of parliamentary strength following the defection by five House of Representatives members from the Liberal Democratic Party on Friday [15 April].

House of Representatives	Party	
House of Councillors		
214	LDP	95
74	SDPJ	71
60	Shinseito/Kaikaku Rengo	—
52	KomeiTo	24
40	Kaikaku (Reform)	—
19	DSP/Shinto Club	—
15	JCP	11
15	Sakigake/JNP	—
5	Kaikaku No Kai	—
—	Shin Ryokufukai	37
—	Niin Club	5
15	Independents	9
2	Vacancies	0
511	Total	252

Watanabe Plans To Leave LDP

OW1704065194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0638
GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told reporters Sunday he will leave the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Earlier last week Watanabe, leader of the third largest power bloc in the LDP, disclosed his readiness to run for a Diet premiership election to pick the successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Watanabe told reporters Sunday, "I will give up my party membership as a matter of course."

On Friday LDP President Yohei Kono met Watanabe in a bid to ask Watanabe not to leave the party. Watanabe, however, expressed his readiness to form a new alliance with Shinseito and Komeito, the two key parties in the governing coalition, in order to "surmount the crises now confronting this country."

The second round of Kono-Watanabe talks was scheduled for Monday.

Watanabe on National Salvation Issue

OW1704234794 Tokyo KYODO in English 2338
GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Veteran politician Michio Watanabe of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Sunday he will leave the party, as early as Monday, in a bid for the premiership, hoping to gain the backing of the ruling coalition. Watanabe's statement came as the ruling coalition was moving toward backing Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, head of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], as its candidate for premier.

There is some support within Shinseito, however, for the nomination of Watanabe for the premiership and his latest move will complicate the selection process, political sources said.

The 70-year-old former foreign minister said he will seek ties with the coalition parties to achieve his goal of succeeding outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, commenting, "I have a conviction that a cabinet of national salvation should be formed to overcome the present difficult situation."

"I could not become (prime minister) only with LDP support. As I have to ask for the support of many people, I will naturally renounce my party membership," he said.

If the leader of the LDP's third-largest faction quits the party, some 30 other LDP members will follow suit, LDP sources said.

Regarding the possibility of his forming a new party, Watanabe concurred, saying, "Naturally I will not forget about (the matter)." He also suggested he will run in the premiership race as an independent.

Meanwhile, representatives of the coalition parties will resume consultations Monday afternoon on policy coordination for a new government and are expected to reach agreement on a policy platform.

After reaching agreement on basic policies, coalition party chiefs will hold talks on the selection of a successor to Hosokawa.

Watanabe will make a final decision Monday, concerning his possible departure from the LDP, after consulting with his fellow faction members to determine how many would support such a move, faction sources said.

After Watanabe leaves the party, he will propose a "coalition government for national salvation" and call for policy consultations with the coalition, the sources said.

Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, the coalition's chief strategist, who has close ties with Watanabe, said Sunday, "Aside from the issue of whether he can be the candidate for prime minister (from the coalition), I respect him as a man of great experience and wisdom."

Komeito [Clean Government Party] Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa said in a statement, "Watanabe's departure (from the LDP) would have a great impact."

Executives of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan—SDPJ], the largest party in the coalition, confirmed Sunday night that if Shinseito decides to nominate Watanabe as the coalition candidate for premier, the party will leave the coalition, party officials said. They also agreed that if the SDP quits the coalition, the party will not form a "grand coalition" with the LDP, the officials said.

New party Sakigake [Harbinger] plans not to support a cabinet which includes Watanabe, party sources said. Sakigake, a 15-member coalition group led by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, declared Friday it will not seek a post in a new cabinet but will support a candidate agreed upon by its coalition partners.

Watanabe and LDP President Yohei Kono, who has himself vowed to run in the Diet election as his party's official candidate, had been scheduled to have a second round of talks on Monday. But it is unclear whether the talks will actually take place, sources said.

Kono urged Watanabe Friday to drop his ambitions for the premiership, in order to maintain party unity, but met with no success.

Watanabe 'Having Second Thoughts'

OW1804102394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe was apparently having second thoughts Monday [18 April] about his plan to split from

the Liberal Democratic Party now that his bid for the premiership seems unlikely to succeed, political sources said. Watanabe is backpedaling as the ruling coalition is seen more in favor of naming Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata as successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, the sources said.

In a meeting with LDP President Yohei Kono, Watanabe said, "I understand your feelings, so please give me a little bit more time to think this issue over," an LDP official said.

Watanabe, 70, also admitted to wavering over whether to split from the LDP, citing major differences with the ruling coalition over security issues. He heads the LDP's third largest faction.

He said, "I can tie up with the Japan New Party whose policies do not differ from ours. If I had the courage to leave and cooperate with such parties as Komeito, which took a big step forward in approving a policy to join UN peacekeeping forces, I would end up pursuing the same policies as the Liberal Democratic Party."

Kono appealed to Watanabe to stay in the LDP, saying, "Unless the coalition decides to revamp its combination of political forces and accept you, your defection will be of no use."

"Let us do our utmost to strip the coalition of its power by criticizing its policy contradictions and inconsistencies, while seeking public understanding of LDP policies," Kono said. Kono was apparently referring to coalition differences over a plan to hike the rate of consumption tax later this year and to map out the specifics of contingency plans to respond to UN Security Council resolutions to slap sanctions on North Korea over its alleged nuclear arms program, the sources said.

Coalition deputies banded together Monday afternoon to discuss their differences on these issues as a prerequisite to agreeing to launch a fresh coalition government to be led by Hata.

The deputies aimed to eliminate gaps over a proposed policy platform document whose adoption would mandate instituting a tax system with greater emphasis on indirect taxes and accepting possibly tough UN resolutions to penalize North Korea for its refusal to accept full checkups of its nuclear facilities.

Watanabe expressed his intention Sunday to quit the largest opposition party in a bid to seek the premiership with the backing of his own faction and some potential supporters in the coalition.

Kono, who has himself vowed to run in the Diet election to nominate the head of government as his party's official candidate, urged Watanabe on Friday to drop his ambitions for the premiership, but Watanabe turned down the request.

Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, the largest party in the seven-party coalition, said

Monday he is opposed to nominating Watanabe as the coalition's candidate for the premiership, party officials said. Murayama also expressed opposition to Watanabe being invited even to join the next cabinet in a position such as deputy prime minister, they said.

So far, only about 20 LDP members are expected to quit and follow their boss if he decides to leave.

Meanwhile, five LDP House of Representatives members who voiced support for Watanabe's bid for the premiership left the party on Monday. These rebels—Seiichi Ota, Taku Yamamoto, Shizuo Sato, Koji Kakizawa and Shokei Arai—are the members of the former LDP policy study group, called the "Liberals."

They were followed by another LDP lower house member, Kenji Kosaka, who said he will join Shinseitō, a key party in the coalition.

Another group of five LDP renegades—led by Michihiko Kano, former director general of the Management and Coordination Agency—on Monday formed a new party called the New Party Mirai (Future). Kano hinted at his readiness to vote for Hata in the Diet vote.

Fumihiko Igarashi and two other Japan New Party legislators told reporters they decided to quit the party and become independents.

Eleven Lower House LDP's Defect

*OW1804055794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0547
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Another five House of Representatives members quit the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Monday to launch a new parliamentary group aimed at reorganizing the political structure in Japan.

The defections bring to 11 the number of lower house members who have quit the LDP in four days.

Those who defected from the LDP on Monday are Koji Kakizawa, Seiichi Ota, Shokei Arai, Taku Yamamoto and Shizuo Sato.

The five told a news conference they plan to set up a new parliamentary group soon with two independent lower house members.

Riki Nakamura, an independent, dissolved a parliamentary affiliation with the LDP to join the group and another independent, Sanae Takaichi, is also planning to join them, they said.

"We decided to quit to accelerate the current development by our action," Kakizawa said at the press conference. Kakizawa and the other four who quit the LDP on Monday have backed former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe as a replacement for outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced on April 8 he will resign over a financial scandal and a Diet stalemate.

Kakizawa said the seven will call on other LDP lawmakers to join their group so as to realize their policies together.

Five other LDP lower house members who quit the party Friday, formed a new party Monday called New Party Mirai (Future).

Another LDP lower house member, Kenji Kosaka, also left the party Monday, saying he will join Shinseitō [Japan Renewal Party], a key party in the coalition.

Hata on 'Political Stalemate'

*OW1804094894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata indirectly called on veteran conservative politician Michio Watanabe on Monday [18 April] to leave the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to break the political stalemate. Hata said at a press conference that it is up to Watanabe himself to decide on his actions but things will not "make progress if he is within the LDP."

Watanabe, a former foreign minister, said Sunday he will leave the LDP as early as Monday, hoping to run for the premiership following Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's announcement that he will resign.

However, Watanabe, in talks with LDP President Yohei Kono earlier in the day, said he still needs more time to decide whether he will leave the main opposition party. Hata said if Watanabe, 70, had decided on his actions earlier, he could have won "understanding from various people."

Hata was apparently referring to a number of LDP members who were thinking about following Watanabe in leaving the LDP, delivering a serious blow to the party.

Hata is considered the top candidate to become the next prime minister.

Ministry Begins Preparing 'Stoppap' Budget

*OW1604073694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—The Finance Ministry started preparing Saturday [16 April] a revision draft of the stopgap budget, since passage of the fiscal 1994 budget in the lower house will be delayed by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's resignation, ministry officials said. Deliberations on the 1994 budget, worth 73.08 trillion yen, have been stalled amid wrangling between the ruling coalition and the opposition camp over Hosokawa's financial transactions.

With the domestic economy finally showing signs of recovery, the Finance Ministry wants to avoid the psychologically harmful effects which could result from a vacuum in the budget, officials said.

The ministry believes it is difficult for the full 1994 budget bills to be passed within the 50-day period of the stopgap budget even if deliberations go smoothly, particularly since there is a string of national holidays in early May.

A record stopgap budget of 11.05 trillion yen covering the period from April 1 to May 20 was enacted April 1, when the stalled talks made it impossible for the 1994 budget to be implemented within fiscal 1993 that ended March 31.

If a revision of the stopgap budget is made, it will be the first such case since fiscal 1990.

The revised budget is expected to cover a period of nearly one month from May 21 to mid-June, since the budget for the full year could pass the lower house in mid-May following the national holidays, and will automatically be enacted within 30 days after being sent to the upper house.

The scale of the stopgap budget is expected to amount to 2 or 3 trillion yen, covering the minimum funds needed for public servants.

North Korea

WPC Leader Comments on U.S. Approach to Talks

SK1804110494 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Ramesh Chandra, honorary president of the World Peace Council [WPC], in an interview with the KCNA correspondent in India on April 9 said that the grave danger of nuclear war created by the United States on the Korean peninsula is a serious challenge to the Korean people and peace-loving forces of the world desirous of peace on the Korean peninsula and its reunification.

In order to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula and its reunification, he stated, the United States must discard its anachronistic policy of stifling the DPRK and approach the DPRK-USA talks with sincerity.

It must, above all, withdraw its nuclear and other mass destruction weapons and troops from South Korea and stop all the war games, he said, adding:

Korea must be reunified by founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo according to the "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" advanced by the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song.

U.S. Deployment of Materiel to South Condemned

SK1804072294 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1225 GMT 14 Apr 94*

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "Anachronistic Way of Thinking Must be Disregarded"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists are escalating their plots for a Northward invasion war. As has already been reported, they deployed some of their 30 ultramodern Apache attack helicopters—which they promised to deploy to South Korea—to South Korea on 10 April. The Apache helicopters, which have been deployed to South Korea as a part of strengthening the combatant capabilities of the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea, have arrived in the U.S. Army bases near the Military Demarcation Line.

From 10 to 11 April, the U.S. imperialists also mobilized and deployed various kinds of approximately 20 military planes to South Korea from their overseas bases. They have either mobilized or supplied a great number of troops and war equipment to operational areas by air transport from U.S. mainland bases and the Pacific region.

It has been reported that the first shipment of Patriot missiles—which left Texas some time ago—will arrive in South Korea soon. All these facts are an intentional plot to reinforce their arms to further lead the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war. Therefore, it is a very dangerous military move.

As everyone knows, it is our consistent position to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula through dialogue or negotiations. However, the U.S. imperialists—who have unilaterally broken up the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks by fully refusing the implementation of an DPRK-U.S. agreement signed in New York—have disclosed their attempts to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise under an unreasonable pretext and have more vigorously maneuvered to strengthen South Korea's military reinforcement by babbling about the so-called sanctions. This is an act like a thief turning on the victim with a club and clearly shows that the United States has no intention at all to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula through dialogue, but instead has plotted to crush [apsal] our Republic.

Such criminal attempts by the U.S. imperialists have been properly shown by the recent and bellicose remarks by U.S. ruling circles. In an interview with U.S. NBC Television on 12 April, U.S. Secretary of State Christopher even set a deadline for us to accept nuclear inspections, talking about our so-called nuclear issue. Also, he made absurd remarks that if we fail to comply with their unilateral and unjust demands by then, diplomatic pressure will be turned into a more stern step and that he cannot rule out the possibility of conducting a military preemptive strike.

Prior to his remarks, even U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry has not hesitated to make bellicose remarks that he cannot rule out the possibility of a U.S. preemptive military strike against North Korea, and that he is willing to take the risk of waging a war. The U.S. imperialists' arms reinforcement plots—which have been further accelerated under the situations in which the U.S. ruling circles have made such bellicose remarks that agitate war and in which the U.S. naval fleets are mobilized and deployed in waters off the Korean peninsula—are never coincident. This shows that they have attempted to surely wage a new war on the Korean peninsula by strengthening the military threat or pressure against us.

Because of the U.S. imperialists' and South Korean puppets' reckless war plots, a very grave situation in which no one knows when war breaks out [onje chonjaengi tojilchi morunun] is now being created on the Korean peninsula. It is the U.S. imperialists who are the ringleaders of aggravating tensions, as well as the breakers of peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

While acting as if it is an international military police, the United States intends to bring our people to their knees with military forcible measures [kanggwon] and force. However, this is an anachronistic way of thinking. The times have passed in which forcible measures and force could be used. It is a foolish daydream if it believes that the method of force can be applied to us.

We have the might of single-hearted unity, which is much stronger than atomic or hydrogen bombs, as well as the matchless revolutionary Armed Forces capable of boldly destroying any enemies and of safeguarding the socialist fatherland based on the strong self-reliant national economy and the powerful national defensive capabilities. We are thoroughly prepared to cope with the U.S. imperialists' military pressure or offensive.

The persons who sets a fire are doomed to be burned to death by that fire. The U.S. imperialists should clearly see the reality and should not act recklessly.

Kim Il-song Says 'We Have Nothing To Hide'

OW1804103994 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1007 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Announcer-read report over video on DPRK President Kim Il-song's news conference with foreign reporters at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on 16 April; Kim's remarks in Korean are translated from Japanese subtitles]

[Text] North Korean President Kim Il-song held a news conference today with a group of foreign reporters, including members of the NHK. In the news conference, President Kim Il-song commented on North Korean nuclear facilities, where the DPRK is suspected of developing nuclear weapons, and said that no country is making its military facilities open to the general public.

In this way, he stressed again that the DPRK has no intention to accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The news conference was held at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall, where President Kim Il-song's presidential office is located, for nearly three hours starting at 1000 [0100 GMT] this morning.

[Begin Kim Il-song recording] We have nothing to hide at all. We have no secrets. However, we have military secrets. It is normal for every country to hide its military matters. We will make everything, except for the military matters, open to the general public. [end recording]

In this way, President Kim Il-song stressed again that the DPRK has no intention to accept inspections of the two facilities in Yongbyon, which are main targets of the nuclear suspicion. Moreover, President Kim Il-song said: We have been saying that we have neither the intention nor the capability of building nuclear weapons. It is unlikely that we will ever own nuclear weapons.

In this way, he denied the suspected nuclear weapons development. On the other hand, President Kim Il-song repeatedly said that he hopes to visit the United States someday.

[Begin Kim Il-song recording] Although I have never been to the United States, I think a day will come for me to go there. [ends recording]

This was the first time for President Kim Il-song to disclose his hope to visit the United States.

[Begin recording by an unidentified NHK reporter in Pyongyang] President Kim Il-song gave us very strong impressions. One of them is the fact that he looked very healthy. Although he is 82 years old, he energetically spoke for three hours and ate well. He did not look tired at all. In response to a question what he will do when he goes to the United States, the president said: I have nothing to learn from the United States because I am not young anymore. However, I would like to go fishing and hunting. It will be a fruitful visit in many respects.

International attention is focused on how President Kim Il-song will settle the difficult situation. [end recording]

Foreigners Urge Peaceful Nuclear Issue Solution

SK1404231494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—World political and public circles are calling for a peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula.

Six organizations of Mali including the Malian Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, the Malian Peace Movement and the Anti-Imperialist Youth Union of Mali called an emergency meeting on April 1 and issued a joint statement.

The statement sharply denounced the United States for recklessly acting against peace and security of the world by stepping up preparations for a new war on the Korean peninsula.

Noting that the resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea might carry the situation of the Korean peninsula into extremes, it expressed indignation and apprehensions for the grave situation created in the region owing to the unjustifiable attitude of the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of India (Marxism) in a statement said the U.N. Security Council should get itself free from the U.S. pressure and take a fair and aboveboard position to find a negotiated solution of the problem of nuclear inspection.

The Socialist Party of Kazakhstan in a statement April 5 said it has in the past invariably supported the efforts of the DPRK to solve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way. It expressed the belief that the DPRK's efforts would surely be successful.

The presidium of the Committee of "Peace and Today" of Russia in an appeal sent to the U.N. Secretary General on March 30 pointed out that the all-out campaign launched by the United States and its followers is aimed at creating another "flash point" on the Korean peninsula.

The appeal called upon the United Nations to exert due efforts to solve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way, not by unjust pressure and policy of strength or "sanctions".

South's Treatment of Nuclear Issue Viewed

SK1804101594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006
GMT 18 Apr 94

["What Is S. Korean Puppets' 'Nuclear' Clamour For?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today throws light on what the South Korean puppets are really seeking in raising a hue and cry over "the nuclear issue" of the North, following outside forces.

The analyst says:

Clear is the purpose of the South Korean puppets in getting frantic in their "nuclear" clamour, tailing behind foreign forces. They seek to isolate the North in the international arena, find a pretext for another war against the North, stifle it with the help of outside forces and gratify their design to "unify the country by invading the North."

They also seek to divert the attention of the people elsewhere and dull the people's discontent with them by the "nuclear" clamor, thus saving the ever-worsening crisis of their rule.

Their "nuclear" clamour is, in the final analysis, an intolerable criminal act to prop up the power by leaving the nation to the mercy of big powers. Their "nuclear" clamour is designed to facilitate their nuclear arms development and impede the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The nuclear armament of the South Korean puppet clique, along with Japan's, has entered a grave stage, creating quite a stir in the world. It is nobody's secret that South Korea is developing nuclear weapons.

Reporting about the development of nuclear weapons by South Korea, newspapers of the United States, Britain and other countries said plutonium stockpiled by South Korea amounted to ten tons and it would reach about 24 tons around the year 2000.

The Kim Yong-sam group, however, has balked the DPRK-U.S. talks, fooling world public opinion over the "nuclear issue" of the North, which reminds us of a thief crying "stop thief!" This is aimed at obstructing a solution to the nuclear issue at the DPRK-U.S. talks to keep South Korea under the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" and accelerate the nuclear arms development under it.

But, the South Korean puppets have nothing to get in the "nuclear" clamour.

They must clearly understand that their treacherous acts in playing the role of a shock brigade in the "nuclear" clamour of the imperialist reactionaries and fooling the nation will bring themselves to destruction.

ROK Rebuffs 'National Conference' Proposal

SK1604110994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016
GMT 16 Apr 94

[Dishonest and Rude Act"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities refused to take over our letter to the South Korean authorities, political parties, organizations and individual figures and overseas Koreans.

Commenting on this unreasonable act of the South Korean authorities, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

If they had had a shred of patriotism and desire to achieve peace and peaceful reunification of the country, they should have positively responded to our fair proposal for the convocation of a national conference for seeking a way of great national unity.

The South Korean authorities, however, refused to take over our letter, preposterously claiming that the proposal

"ignores North-South dialogue" and it is not "conducive to improving North-South relations." This is, in every respect, an unreasonable, rude act and a challenge to the entire fellow countrymen desirous of reconciliation, unity and reunification.

By turning down our proposal and balking the convocation of a national conference, the South Korean rulers are fully revealing their criminal nature as the very one who does not have dialogue for reunification but keeps others from having dialogue and seeks only confrontation, division and a war against the North.

The South Korean authorities would be well advised to look squarely at the reality, act with discretion and stop such anti-national acts as obstructing the convocation of a national conference.

The whole nation will keep tabs on their follow-up action.

Kim Yong-sam 'Obsessed' With Northward Invasion

*SK1704085894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838
GMT 17 Apr 94*

["Reckless War Moves Against North Must Be Stopped Immediately"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique recently called a "meeting of security-related ministers" and issued orders to "examine and strengthen" their "policy against the North" and "security posture". And the U.S. ambassador to South Korea, the commander of the U.S. forces present in South Korea, the puppet defence minister, foreign minister and others were closeted to "re-examine" the war preparedness of the U.S. forces and the South Korean puppet army.

This tells that the Kim Yong-sam group advocating "civilian" politics is a group of war fanatics obsessed with the fever for Northward invasion overshadowing the successive ruling quarters, and it furnishes a clear proof that they make a war against the North a fait accompli, says a NODONG SINMUN article today.

Noting that military adventures of the puppets assume an extremely dangerous nature as they are tilted to coincide with the massing of ground, naval and air forces in and around the Korean peninsula, the article goes on:

This notwithstanding, the United States and the South Korean puppets allege that the North is to blame for the aggravated tensions and the danger of war on the Korean peninsula.

It is the height of folly for the United States and the South Korean puppets to raise a hue and cry over "provocations" by the North. It is they who totally reversed the agreed conclusions reached at the DPRK-USA contact in New York and aborted the DPRK-USA talks for a solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean

peninsula. It is also they who aborted the inter-Korean working-level contact for the exchange of presidential envoys between the North and the South and have been carrying the situation into extremes with their reckless war rackets.

It is as clear as noonday that they are intending to light the train of war against the North on some unreasonable pretext while massively beefing up their Armed Forces and staging nuclear war exercises.

The United States is trying to frighten others by military threats and attain something therefrom, styling itself "a superpower". But it is a big miscalculation.

The Kim Yong-sam group's scheme to prolong its remaining days in return for plunging the nation into a nuclear holocaust by following outside forces is a foolish daydream.

We want peace but will never beg for it. We do not want war but are never afraid of it.

The United States and the South Korean puppets must promptly stop their criminal war moves against the North.

People Denounce Opening of ROK Rice Market

*SK1604105494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Working people and students in the northern half of Korea have condemned the South Korean puppet clique for scheming to open the rice market.

The speakers at a meeting held at Kim Chaek University of Technology on April 11 said the opening of agricultural market is a brazen-faced act which can be perpetrated only by such fellows as the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who makes no bones of treachery and disguise and does not hesitate at betraying the interests of the country and the nation, motivated by a lust for power.

They said the South Korean rulers have offered not only the rice market but also all the human and material resources of South Korea for the U.S. policy of aggression on Korea and have exacerbated North-South confrontation and pushed ahead with preparations for a war against the North, according to the U.S. strategy aimed at stifling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The speakers at meetings held at the Haksan Cooperative Farm, Hyongjesan district, and the Chilgol Cooperative Farm, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, branded Kim Yong-sam, who has throttled the peasants and devastated agriculture, as the most heinous traitor to the nation.

They called on the peasants and other people of South Korea to invigorate the struggle against the opening of

the rice market throughout South Korea so as to decisively smash the Kim Yong-sam group's anti-national moves and finally defend the rice market.

Anti-Uruguay Round Demonstrations in ROK Noted

SK1604105294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Students, incensed against the anti-national opening of agricultural market, reportedly assaulted Friday the branches of the "Democratic Liberal Party" in Kwangju and Taegu, South Korea, making the Kim Yong-sam clique of traitors upset.

Hundreds of students in Kwangju staged a fierce demonstration in front of the South Cholla Provincial branch of the "DLP", chanting slogans urging the South Korean authorities not to sign the "protocol of Uruguay Round of world trade talks."

Meanwhile, students in Taegu staged a demonstration in front of the Taegu branch of the "DLP" before occupying its building and staging a sit-in.

They shouted slogans rejecting the "parliamentary ratification" of the final act of the opening of the agricultural market and urging the resignation of the Kim Yong-sam regime.

Spokesman's Statement Distributed at UNSC

SK1604044394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman's answers to the questions put by KCNA on March 31 regarding the U.S. moves to justify its clamour from pressure on the DPRK was distributed as official document s/1994/ 381 of the U.N. Security Council [SC] on April 4.

Japanese Figure Denounces NPT, Patriot Missiles

SK1704083694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0811 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Yoshiyuki Oe, chairman of the Japan-Korea Friendship Data Centre and president of the S.B.B. Company, Ltd., of Japan, was interviewed by KCNA on April 14.

Recalling that false reports on the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula are set afloat, he said:

I consider the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] unfair.

Because it is used to put pressure upon the countries which are trying to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, while closing its eyes to some nuclear weapon states including the United States.

The United States regards those countries which refuse to follow its will as enemy states and puts pressure on them.

Hence, it is not good.

The shipment of Patriot missiles into South Korea by the United States and its scheme to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of late are bringing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the extreme pitch of strain, driving it to the brink of war.

Such dangerous moves must be checked without fail.

Japan Urged To Renounce 'Militarist' Thinking

SK1704085194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 17 Apr 94

["Invariable Aggressive Design of Japanese Militarism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Japan is trying to become a military power and expand its sphere of influence and establish domination over Asia and, furthermore, the rest of the world with the backing of its military strength, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

Noting that the Japanese reactionaries are oblivious of the historical lessons from the defeat which they suffered while engaging themselves in the aggression and colonial rule in the past, and are running along the same road, the article says:

This is clearly manifested, first of all, in their attempt to justify the aggressive crimes committed by old Japan.

They allege that their past aggression and war were aimed at "saving" and "protecting" Asian countries from the "danger of aggression and subjugation" by some others.

Their remarks mean that they would repeat the aggression and war of old Japan in the future, too, because they are not crimes.

It is a stark historic fact that old Japan enforced a colonial policy toward Korea. The colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists over Korea was the most heinous one the like of which could not be seen in the world. The Japanese reactionaries' attempt to justify it is an outrageous act and a mockery of the Korean people.

The militarist ambition of the Japanese reactionary circles finds its manifestation in their talk about "superiority" of the "Yamato nation". Now, the Japanese reactionaries are preaching "self-confidence" and "superiority" of the "Yamato nation" to instill the idea of overseas expansion and domination over other nations into the Japanese people.

Their militarist ambition also finds its graphic expression in the fact that they are trying to expand the

self-defensive right of Japan outside its territory, describing preemptive attack as an "exercise of Japan's right of self-defence".

Their claim to accomplish the "sacred cause" of the "great empire of Japan" means to realize their wild ambition of domination today.

Their much-touted "building of a new Asian order" is also intended to establish an order of Japan's domination over Asia.

The Japanese reactionaries must renounce the militarist mode of thinking and attitude.

Chongnyon on Japan's 'Reactionaries' Policy

SK1804103194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Kim Tae-hui, director of the international department of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), issued a statement on April 13 denouncing the Japanese reactionaries who argue that a "countermeasure" with regard to the so-called nuclear "suspicion against North Korea" must be one of the "basic policies" of the next regime.

"Such argument is aimed at intensifying the hostile policy toward the DPRK. It can never be overlooked," he said.

Expressing resentment at the fact that the Japanese reactionaries are joining the United States in the criminal act of breaking international faith, and pursuing a hostile policy toward the DPRK through a strengthened "international cooperation system" of the United States, Japan and South Korea, he said:

"It is very dangerous that some quarters of the ruling coalition are crying for the 'establishment of a crisis control system' to cope with 'a case of contingency in Korea' and even 'an amendment of the law' for the dispatch of the 'self-defence forces' to Korea, while describing 'North's nuclear development' as a fait accompli.

"It is noted in Asian countries, too, that such attitude of the Japanese reactionaries means involvement in the increase of tension in northeast Asia.

"We strongly demand that a next regime of Japan, whatever it may be, bear full responsibility for the past colonial rule over Korea and rectify the unjust hostile policy toward the DPRK and the repressive policy against the Koreans in Japan."

Russian Communist Party Delegations Arrive

SK1604101494

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 1300 GMT on 12 April reports on the arrivals of three Russian Communist Party delegations.

Golub, first secretary of the Khabarovsk border area committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, arrived in Pyongyang by train on 12 April and was received by Chi Chae-yong, director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK].

A delegation of the Maritime Territory committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation led by First Secretary Grishukov arrived in Pyongyang by train on 12 April and was received by Chi Chae-yong.

A delegation of the Amur provincial committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation led by First Secretary Gamza arrived in Pyongyang by train on 12 April. The delegation was also received by Chi Chae-yong.

Denounce West for 'Smear Campaign'

SK1704085394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—A joint statement denouncing the West for slandering the DPRK over the fictitious nuclear arms development was released on April 13 by G. E. Gamza, first secretary of the Amur Regional Committee, V. V. Grishukov, first secretary of the Maritime Territorial Committee, and L. A. Golub, first secretary of the Khabarovsk Territorial Committee, of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, staying in Korea.

The joint statement says the smear campaign launched by the western media at the instigation of the ruling quarters of capitalist countries is aimed at concealing the nuclear ambition of the Japanese militarist forces and the South Korean ruling quarters which are stepping up the production of nuclear weapons in secrecy.

Through such vilifications, the aggressive forces of the United States, Japan and South Korea are seeking to take the edge off the successes made by the Korean people in socialist construction under the guidance of the great Comrade Kim Il-sung, before the world public opinion and to lay a foundation for openly destroying the triumphant socialism of Korea, the statement charges.

It stresses that they would conduct brisk activities for rousing the entire far eastern people in Russia to positively support and encourage the Korean people's struggle.

DPRK-PRC Border Venture Begins Operation

SK1704090294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—The construction of the Sinyon Joint-Venture Company run by Sinuiju City, a border city in the Northwestern part of Korea,

and by the Yanbian Autonomous Region of China was completed and it went into operation on the occasion of the significant April fete.

The company will help increase the production of daily necessities and develop economic exchange and friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and China.

Its commissioning ceremony took place in Sinuiju on April 15.

WPK Sends Message to Panhellenic Movement

*SK1604113494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent a message of greetings to the third congress of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement on April 13.

The message expressed the belief that the third congress would be conducive to strengthening and developing the Panhellenic Socialist Movement for peace and security, independent development and prosperity of the country and social progress.

"We believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties will develop favourably in the idea of independence, peace and friendship," it said.

Korea Resolution Adopted at Pan-Africa Meeting

*SK1804052594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—A resolution on Korea was adopted recently at the 7th pan-African conference held in Kampala, Uganda.

The resolution denounces the continued threat and blackmail of the United States to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It says:

The conference is concerned over the scheme of the United States of America to venture a military intervention for destroying the nuclear development capacity of Korea which is being used for a peaceful purpose.

The USA must open first its own nuclear facilities to an international inspection. This is the only fair and peaceful solution for avoiding genocide.

The conference denounces the reckless massacre committed by the USA in Iraq and demands that it should not repeat this mistake in Korea.

The 7th pan-African conference also calls upon all the countries to promote the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula, helping the Korean people in the North and the South solve the question of reunification by themselves.

Reportage Continues on Kim Il-song Birthday

Chongnyon Group Arrives

*SK1204215894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1522
GMT 12 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—A congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan headed by Yi Chin-kyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), arrived here today to participate in the April 15 fete.

It was met at the airport by Kim Yong-sun, Chang Chol and officials concerned.

Festivities Noted

*SK1204220194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510
GMT 12 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—April 15 is the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Korea is now in festive attire.

Seen in Pyongyang and local areas are posters, pictures and decorations. Forests of flags are fluttering in the wind and various species of flowers are in full bloom in bustling streets.

The Korean people, who regard it as their greatest happiness to have President Kim Il-song as their leader, are extending greatest honor and deepest thanks to him who has devoted his all to the noble cause of the freedom and happiness of the people and performed imperishable feats for the times and the revolution.

All the party members and people of all strata are sending to him congratulatory letters carrying their deep reverence for and loyalty to him.

Many people are now visiting Mangyongdae, his home village, Chilgol and other revolutionary sites to learn from his revolutionary history and undying feats.

Grand celebration functions are taking place on the occasion of the April holiday.

A national scientific symposium and seminars of various domains have been held to convincingly prove the truth and originality of the chuche idea founded by President Kim Il-song and his imperishable exploits.

Art shows and photo exhibitions are open in the capital, provinces, cities and counties to celebrate April 15. On display there are pictures and art works showing the revolutionary history, great feats and noble virtues of President Kim Il-song.

A ten-day film show began on the occasion. Showing at the cinema houses are documentary films "The Leader is the Great Father of Our People," "The Revolutionary Spirit of Mt. Paektu" and "Glory of Our People in Having the Great Leader" and feature films "The Star of

Korea" (ten parts), "Eternal Life," "The Nation and Destiny" (series), "Appearance of a Party Member," "Daughter of a War Veteran," etc.

The Mangyongdae prize sports contest and other sports games are going on at stadiums and gymnasiums in Pyongyang and local areas.

Many friends have come from different countries to join the Korean people in celebrating the holiday. The 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival now under way at different theatres in the capital, drawing capacity audiences, is giving greater joy to the Korean people celebrating the holiday.

Cuban Envoy Hosts Reception

SK1404051394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Cuban Ambassador to Korea Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona hosted a reception Wednesday on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Speaking at the reception, the ambassador said "the birthday of the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song is a significant holiday of all us."

He said the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song gives a keen analysis of the international situation and shapes correct lines and policies to cope with it. "We can be well aware of his sagacity in view of his judgement and position on the nuclear issue," he noted.

"It is our view and stand that the nuclear issue should be solved in the interests of the Korean people and mankind," he said, expressing the belief that Korea would be certainly reunified in the near future.

Kim Yong-nam, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, spoke next.

He said the birth of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a historical event for the Korean people to put an end to the era of darkness for good and herald a new era, bright and prosperous.

He said:

"Today the Cuban party and people are advancing under the banner of socialism, smashing the blockade and interference of the U.S. imperialists under the wise leadership of Comrade Fidel Castro, supreme leader of the Cuban revolution. Our party and people highly estimate the struggle of the party, government and people of Cuba to defend the socialist cause and will as ever express firm support and solidarity for the struggle of the Cuban people."

He said that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples based on the particular intimacy forged between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, supreme leader of the Cuban revolution, will continue to strengthen and develop without any vacillation in any storm and stress in their common struggle to defend and glorify the cause of socialism.

An art performance was given by Cuban artistes at the reception.

'Central Report Meeting' Held

SK1804063394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] A grand central report meeting took place yesterday at the 8 February House of Culture to celebrate the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song's birthday.

A portrait of the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song was placed in the front of the meeting hall. Placed in the background of the rostrum were the image of Mt. Paektu, which symbolizes our party's brilliant revolutionary tradition, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has created; the numbers 1912-1994, which testify to the respected and beloved leader's honorable, brilliant revolutionary history; and red banners.

Also placed at the meeting were slogans that read "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Long live the honorable Workers Party of Korea [WPK]!". Also placed at the meeting hall were such slogans as "Long live the great chuche ideal!", "Let us become members of the honor guard unit and do-or-die unit boundlessly loyal to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the honorable party!", and "Let us further glorify socialism of our own style on the strength of single-hearted unity!" and the words "We wish the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song a long life and good health."

Present at the meeting were senior officials [chaegim ilggun] of party, state, and administrative and economic institutions, public organizations, and central institutions; Korean People's Army [KPA] soldiers; senior officials of the scientific, educational, cultural, artistic, public health, and publication and press fields; heroes, people of meritorious services, members of bereaved families of revolutionary martyrs, three revolutions standard bearers, and workers in the city.

Also present at the meeting were members of the congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan which is visiting the socialist fatherland to congratulate the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's birthday and other congratulatory groups, delegations, and visiting groups of Koreans overseas from different regions of the world, and Korean compatriots overseas.

Also present was Cho Il-min, chief of the Pyongyang representative office of South Korean National Democratic Front.

Present on the rostrum were Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of People's Armed Forces; Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the Administration Council; Comrades Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, and Kim Yong-chu, members of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and vice presidents; Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, vice premier of the Administration Council, and minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chief of KPA General Staff; Comrades Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho, and Han Song-yong, members of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretaries of the Party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Chol-man, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Party Central Committee; Comrades Choe Yong-nim and Hong Song-nam, candidate members of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Hong Sok-hyong, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Comrades Kim Chung-nin, So Kwan-hui, Kim Ki-nam, Kim Kuk-tae, and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Pok-sin, Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Hwan, and Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the State Inspection Commission of the Central People's Committee; Comrade Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Economic Policy Committee of the Central People's Committee; Comrade Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee; Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; and senior officials of party, state, and central institutions, Armed Forces institutions [muryok kigwan], public security institutions [sahoe anjon kigwan], and public organizations, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, and heroes.

Also present on the rostrum was Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will.

Also present on the rostrum were Yi Chin-kyu, first vice chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, who is the head of the group of Koreans in Japan for congratulating the 15 April celebrations, and heads of

other congratulatory groups of Koreans overseas and Choe Hong-hui, president of the International Taekwondo Federation.

The meeting began with the playing of the national anthem.

Kang Song-san, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the Administration Council, delivered a congratulatory report. Yi Chin-kyu, first vice chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, who is the head of the group of Koreans in Japan for congratulating the 15 April celebrations, delivered a congratulatory speech.

The meeting ended with the chorus of the song "We Wish the Leader [suryong] a Long Life and Good Health."

Children's Union Marks Day

SK1504104894 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033*
GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—A joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union (KCU) was held here today to celebrate the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

It was attended by KCU delegates from the provinces, school children in Pyongyang, educators, officials of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK), veterans of the fatherland liberation war, soldiers of the Korean People's Army, working people and parents of school children.

Overseas Koreans on a visit to the socialist homeland were invited to the meeting.

Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and Chief of the General Staff of the KPA Choe Kwang, alternate Politburo member and Secretary of the C.C., the WPK Choe Tae-pok and other senior party and government officials were present at a ceremony of the KCU took place at the meeting.

In his report, Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the C.C., the LSWYK, representing the best wishes of all the three million KCU members, extended warmest congratulations and highest glory to the respected leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, who trains the KCU members into reliable workers of the future, calling them "Kings" of the country.

He said the entire KCU members must assiduously learn from the glorious youth and childhood of the respected leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song and the dear leader Kim Chong-il and firmly prepare themselves as juvenile guards and death-defying corps intensely loyal to the party and the leader.

A ceremony for admission to the KCU followed.

Upon being admitted to the KCU, children made an oath at the call of an anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter.

The children who became KCU members shouted "Be Always Ready!" in chorus as their first salute in response to the call "Let Us Always Be Ready as Reserves for Communist Construction!"

Then, a marchpast of KCU members took place.

Envoys Visit Mangyongdae

*SK1504054494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0519
GMT 15 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai and his embassy officials, and Palestinian Ambassador to Korea Shahir Mohammed visited Mangyongdae Thursday on the occasion of the 15th of April.

Hearing an explanation about the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history of the great leader President Kim Il-sung and his revolutionary family at his old home in Mangyongdae, the guests saw the historic relics and then went round the Mangyongdae revolutionary museum.

After the visit, Ambassador Qiao Zonghuai said the great leader President Kim Il-sung set on the road of revolution in his teenage and waged a struggle through all obstacles and difficulties. "He is the founder of the party, the state and the People's Armed Forces and a great leader who has built socialist Korea into a prospering country," he said, adding: "I am convinced that the friendship between the two countries will always remain close through generations".

Palestinian Ambassador Shahir Mohammed said April 15 is a national holiday of the Korean people and a holiday of the world revolutionary people. "The history of the Korean revolution originated in Mangyongdae," he said.

Song, Dance Performances Noted

*SK1504233394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506
GMT 15 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—A joint performance by participants in the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival has begun from April 13, while the birthday of the respected leader President Kim Il-sung is being celebrated significantly as a great auspicious event common to mankind.

The program consists of songs, dances and pieces of instrumental music performed by foreign artistes, Korean artistes overseas and home artistes that won acclamation in the separate and group performances.

The performers show deepest respect and reverence for President Kim Il-sung who has devoted his whole life to the glorious cause of the freedom and liberation of people and socialist construction.

Artistes of Bangladesh, the Congo and other countries put on stage the mixed duet "Song of Praise to the Great Leader", the male trio "Happiness of Mankind" and the female solo "It is Our Boundless Honour To Have You as Our Leader."

Artistes from Mongolia, Russia and other countries highly praise the greatness and immortal revolutionary exploits of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the songs "We Will Win Because You Are Leading Us," "Our General is the Greatest," "No Motherland Without You," and in dances.

Artistes from Romania, Vietnam and other countries put on stage the songs "My Song in the Trench" and "It is Honor, Alive or Dead, in the Revolution" which represent the indomitable stamina and heroic spirit of the Korean people.

Chinese, Cambodian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Nigerian, Egyptian, Russian and Kazakh artistes successfully represent in their songs, dances and instrumental music the noble spiritual world and traditional customs of their nations with refined technique and artistry.

Also put on stage are colourful numbers showing the feelings of deep friendship and solidarity among the world progressive peoples guided by the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

The participants in the joint performance sing in chorus the song "We Wish the Leader Long Life in Good Health".

Dances, Art Performances Held

*SK1604045594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) - Pyongyang youths and students held an evening dancing party at Kim Il-sung Square Friday in celebration of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-sung.

Present there were Kang Song-san, Politburo member of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and premier of the Administration Council; Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, Politburo members of the C.C., the WPK and vice-presidents; Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the C.C., the Korean Social Democratic Party and vice-president; and other party and state officials.

Also seen there were the congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan led by first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan (Chongnyon) Yi Chin-kyu and other delegations of Chongnyon, president of the International Taekwon-do Federation Choe Hong-hui, congratulatory groups and overseas Koreans from different regions and overseas Koreans' organizations, who came here to participate in the celebrations of the birthday of President Kim Il-sung.

Foreign delegations and friendly envoys, participants in the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival and other foreign guests were invited to the dancing party.

Also invited there were the Pyongyang-visiting group of former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries led by ex-President of Costa Rica Rodrigo Carazo Odio.

Dancing to the tune of the songs "Song of Best Wishes to the Leader," "Long Live Generalissimo Kim Il-song," "Song of Three-Point Pride," etc. The participants in the party unanimously wished good health and long life to President Kim Il-song, who has performed imperishable feats for the Korean people's cause of independence, the cause of socialism, always regarding the idea of "Believing in the People as in Heaven" as his lifelong motto.

Art performances were given by central art troupes at theatres and recreation grounds in the capital that day.

On the 14th, an evening gathering of soldiers of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces took place at the Chonsung Square on the occasion.

Present there were Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK and chief of general staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA], and other senior officers of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces and officers and men of the three services of the KPA.

Children's Union Camps Open

*SK1604112494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Children's union camps across the country have begun their operation for this year on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Taking part in camping are the school children who have set examples in study and the children's union organizational life.

The camps have renewed education and dissemination rooms and kept in good order the modern sports and recreation facilities.

The Mangyongdae Children's Union Camp has newly built a study room to help campers study hard the reminiscences of President Kim Il-song.

The first camping flag for this year was hoisted at the camps across the country on April 15.

During the camping they will have seminars and public representations and conduct sports, recreation and art circle activities, consolidating what they have learned at school and further training their body and soul.

Baskets Laid at Statue Base

*SK1604113294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Korean people and overseas compatriots and foreigners laid baskets of flowers before the bronze statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu hill here on April 15, a significant fete.

Central and other organs, industrial establishments, cooperative farms, schools, units of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces and many families in the city of Pyongyang laid floral baskets before the statue of the great leader and expressed best wishes for his longevity.

Floral baskets carrying best wishes for longevity were laid by overseas Koreans from Japan, China and other regions on a visit to the socialist homeland, and a delegation of the secretariat of the society for the study of the chuche idea of teachers of Japan, artistes of different countries participating in the 12th April spring friendship art festival, business delegations from France and Germany and many other foreigners.

Foreign Seamen Mark Birthday

*SK1604215194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Foreign crewmen met in Chongjin, a port city in the northeast coast of Korea, on April 14 to celebrate the 15th of April.

Present at the meeting were crewmen of the Chinese-flagged ships "Nanpingshan" and "Hengchunhai" and the Singaporean-flagged ship "Jingshun" and the Belize ship "Ocean Dream".

Captains of those ships in their speeches said President Kim Il-song is the great leader who is wisely leading the Korean revolution and the socialist construction.

They noted that the Korean people, under the banner of the chuche idea, have surmounted the difficulties in the spirit of independence and self-reliance and turned the DPRK into a country with advanced industry, agriculture and developed science and technology through strenuous efforts.

A congratulatory letter to the great leader President Kim Il-song was adopted at the meeting.

On April 15 those foreign shipmen visited the bronze statue of President Kim Il-song in Chongjin to express best wishes to him.

Trade Unions Issue Statement

*SK1804055794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0538
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUKK] and the

World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] published a joint statement here on April 17.

According to it, a delegation of the WFTU consisting of its Secretary General Alexander Jarikov and Secretary Debkumar Ganguli paid a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from April 12, 1994, at the invitation of the GFTUK.

The secretary general of the WFTU, in the name of the delegation, congratulated Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on his birthday and sincerely wished him good health and a long life.

The GFTUK noted with high estimation that the WFTU has made a great contribution to the people's struggle against imperialist and neo-colonialist aggression and for freedom and sovereignty under the current international situation marked by a manifold crisis.

The GFTUK also expressed satisfaction with the consistent efforts of the Asian and Pacific regional office of the WFTU to tighten the relations of friendship and cooperation among the trade unions in the Asian and Pacific region on the basis of independence.

The WFTU delegation got deep impressions everywhere it went, witnessing Korean working people under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea and its leaders making strenuous efforts to further consolidate socialism, a society free from domination and subjugation, exploitation and oppression, poverty and unemployment, the age-old desire of mankind, fighting against the U.S. imperialists maneuvers.

The WFTU delegation resolutely denounced the deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea, demanded that the U.S. authorities give up their intrigues, and urged the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency not to allow their names and authority to be abused.

The WFTU delegation reaffirmed its unflinching support to the stand of the DPRK to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and achieve an independent and peaceful reunification of the country by founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

The GFTUK and WFTU manifested their common stand that all the peace- and justice-loving anti-imperialist forces should firmly unite on the joint front against the ever-increasing imperialist and neo-colonialist aggressive policies in order to realize democratization of the international community and establish an equitable new international economic order.

Both sides called upon the world's working class, the most active defender of justice and truth and the very one immediately responsible for the independent rights and demands of the laboring masses, to take the lead in this struggle.

Both sides expressed sympathy with the view that the 13th WFTU congress would occasion a new turn in developing the WFTU into an organization capable of facing up to challenges of the changed situation.

Observances of Birthday Overseas Reported

Foreign Press Coverage Cited

SK1404130494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Foreign media edited special write-ups on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The Bulgarian paper *TRIBUNA* carried the full text of the famous work of President Kim Il-song "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" together with his portrait.

In an article titled "Wishes for Longevity to President Kim Il-song" the paper said:

History does not know such a great leader as President Kim Il-song. Since he embarked on the road of revolution, he has won a reputation as a leader of versatile talents and a true leader of the people.

He is a great thinker, theoretician and leader with rare ideological and theoretical intelligence and outstanding leadership ability.

He is a true leader of the people with noble virtues of deeply loving the people. It is his distinguished feat that he has successfully solved the question of continuity of leadership for carrying the cause of socialism through generation to completion.

The Korean people deem it their greatest glory and happiness to have President Kim Il-song as the hero of the nation and the great leader.

It is the happiness of mankind to have such a leader of the people and a great man of the century as President Kim Il-song.

The Zimbabwean paper *PEOPLE'S VOICE*, the Ethiopian paper *MONITOR* and the Indian magazine *SOCIAL LOOK* carried special write-ups together with portraits of President Kim Il-song.

The Russian paper *NARODNAYA GAZETA* carried an article titled "Fatherly Leader."

Embassy in PRC Hosts Banquet

SK1604103294

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0500 GMT on 14 April reports on a banquet held at the DPRK Embassy in the PRC on 11 April to celebrate Kim Il-song's birthday.

Present at the banquet were Ding Guangen, member of the political bureau of the CPC Central Committee and

member of the CPC Secretariat; Li Shuzheng, head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; Han Zhubin, minister of railways; Zhu Shanqing, deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; Tang Jiaxuan, vice minister of foreign affairs; Xu Huizi, deputy chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army; Mou Xinsheng, vice minister of public security; Chen Changben, vice minister of culture; Nan Zhenzhong, vice president of XINHUA NEWS AGENCY; Zhang Yunsheng, deputy editor in chief from RENMIN RIBAO; Hu Zhaoguang, vice mayor of Beijing Municipal People's Government; Xu Qun, vice president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries; Gan Yetao, vice president of the China-DPRK Friendship Association; and functionaries concerned.

The DPRK ambassador to China and the secretary of the CPC Secretariat delivered speeches at the banquet.

Events in India, Elsewhere

SK1404130594 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 14 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song has been celebrated in different countries.

A banquet was arranged in New Delhi.

Present there were members of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea and the Preparatory Committee of the International Chuche Idea Seminar on independence, peace and friendship, delegations and delegates of different countries to the seminar, former General Secretary of the Indian National Congress Party (I) S.S. Mohapatra and other Indian political, social and academic figures and representatives of the chuche idea study organizations in New Delhi and local areas.

The speakers said President Kim Il-song was enjoying deep respect and reverence not only from the Korean people but also from the world progressive people for his outstanding ideological and theoretical activities, wise guidance and noble virtues.

Noting that the chuche idea had become the great guiding idea of the present era which the progressive people of developing countries and all other countries were unanimously following, they said that when they dynamically advanced along the road of independence, peace and friendship under the banner of the chuche idea, the human cause of independence would surely emerge victorious.

Meanwhile, Korean film shows, evenings of culture, celebration art performances and other colorful functions were held at the Djuro Salaj theatre in Belgrade, Harare, Zimbabwe, the El Djazair University of Dance and Drama of Algeria, and the National Art Troupe of Nigeria.

A Taekwon-do demonstration performance took place in Moscow.

U.S. TV Coverage Cited

SK1604045694 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—CNN International of the United States reported Thursday about the Pyongyang visit of former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries.

It telecast streets of Pyongyang in festive mood, Pyongyangites and people on Mansudae Hill.

It said Pyongyang seemed to be in a obviously Pacific atmosphere with the 82nd birthday of President Kim Il-song being celebrated, not to be the capital of a country seeking a war.

It also said any tenseness and alertness could not be seen in the faces of those who gathered on Mansudae Hill to lay bunches of flowers before the bronze statue of President Kim Il-song.

It noted that faces of people on camera seemed to be easy and smiling and it was impossible to find out any sign proving that their country has been termed as the most dangerous ignition point in the world at least.

Noting that utterances about a war were exaggerated, it said the door of dialogue for a solution to the nuclear crisis was still kept open.

Sihanouk Hosts Reception

SK1804054494 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0526 GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and her majesty the queen of Cambodia hosted a reception at the Royal Palace on the evening of April 15 in celebration of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Invited to the reception were the Korean ambassador to Cambodia and his embassy officials and members of a Korean delegation.

His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk in his speech said he deemed it a great honor and joy to congratulate His Excellency Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people and his intimate friend, on his birthday.

He further said:

"His Excellency President Kim Il-song is a distinguished and outstanding leader peerless in the history of the Korean people spanning five thousand years.

"Under the wise guidance of the dear leader His Excellency Marshal Kim Chong-il who is carrying forward his

cause, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has become a most powerful country and an earthly paradise.

"The great leader His Excellency Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the sun of mankind, founded the chuche idea and indicated correct lines and policies, thereby leading not only the Korean people but also the third world countries including Cambodia to independence, sovereignty and self-reliance.

"The Kingdom of Cambodia and the DPRK established a particular relationship of friendship long ago and have developed it steadily and the two countries will upgrade the good relations like between real brothers.

"I reassure you that our Cambodia and I will always and firmly stand on the side of his excellency the great generalissimo and his excellency dear marshal and actively support the Korean people's cause of the reunification of the country.

"The DPRK under the wise guidance of His Excellency Generalissimo Kim Il-song, an outstanding leader and father of the Korean nation, and the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il, supreme commander, is firmly maintaining its independent, chuche-based stand, not yielding at all to the undisguised pressure on the part of outside forces. We speak highly of this and will actively support the Korean people in their cause.

"I sincerely wish the great leader His Excellency Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the sun of mankind, and the dear leader His Excellency Marshal Kim Chong-il good health and a long life."

Kim Il-song Receives Flowers for Birthday

From PLO's 'Arafat

SK1204233494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2241 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), sent a floral basket to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on his birthday.

The floral basket was handed Tuesday to an official concerned by Palestinian Ambassador to Korea Shahir Mohammed.

From PRC Leaders

SK1304213894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

received a floral basket from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the occasion of his birthday.

The floral basket was handed to secretary of the WPK Central Committee Hwang Chang-yop by Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai on April 13.

The ambassador said he was conveying the floral basket intended for President Kim Il-song and wishing him a long life in good health, authorized by the Central Committee of the CPC and on behalf of comrades Jiang Zemin, Deng Xiaoping, Li Peng, Qiao Shi and Li Ruihuan and other leaders of China.

From Foreign Diplomats

SK1404131094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1106 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received floral baskets, gifts and congratulatory letters from foreign diplomatic envoys and embassies here on the occasion of his birthday.

The floral baskets, gifts and congratulatory letters were handed to an official concerned by diplomatic envoys and embassies of China, Cuba, India, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Ethiopia, Libya, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Romania, Nigeria, Mongolia, Syria, Algeria, Palestine, Poland, Pakistan, Iran, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Hungary and the head of the interest section for Germany and the resident representative of UNDP [UN Development Program].

President Kim Il-song was presented with gifts and congratulatory letters by a counsellor and the military attache of the Egyptian Embassy here.

From Former Heads of State

SK1504110694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a floral basket from the Pyongyang-visiting group of former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries today on his birthday.

The head of the visiting group Rodrigo Carazo Odio, ex-president of Costa Rica, handed the floral basket to Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly.

In the name of the entire members of his group, the head of the visiting group wished his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song good health and a long life on the occasion of his birthday.

The ex-president of Costa Rica said he deemed it a great pleasure and honour to greet the supreme national holiday of the Korean people in Pyongyang with them,

and extended heartfelt thanks to his excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song and his excellency the dear leader Kim Chong-il who took care that a kind invitation was extended to his group on the threshold of this auspicious holiday and hospitality accorded it.

Persons, Groups Send Gifts to Kim Il-song

From Ghanaian President

*SK1504110594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049
GMT 15 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a gift from Ghanaian President Jerry John Rawlings on his birthday.

The visiting General Secretary of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana Huudu Yahaya handed the gift to Kye Ung-tae, Politburo member and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea.

From Foreign Party Leaders

*SK1504110294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044
GMT 15 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received gifts from the Workers' Party of Ireland, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Turkey, the Maritime Territorial Committee, the Khavarovsk Territorial Committee and the Amur Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation on his birthday.

The gifts were handed to officials concerned.

From Foreign Delegations

*SK1504110194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042
GMT 15 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received gifts on his birthday from the delegations of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan, the Liaoning Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil, the secretariat of the Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Japanese Teachers, the Kim Chong-suk Kindergarten in Dalandzadgad City, Omnogov Province, Mongolia, the Karachi Branch of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association, and Maria Lazar, vice-president of the Socialist Workers' Party of Romania, A.D. Vengerovsky, vice-chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party and deputy speaker of the State Duma of the Federation Council of Russia, and Alexandr Jarikov, secretary general of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The gifts were handed to officials concerned.

President Kim Il-song received a floral basket and a congratulatory letter from the delegation of the Japan-Korea Friendship Data Center.

Gifts were also presented to him by Choe Hong-hui, president of the International Taekwon-do Federation, Yi Yong-pin, chairman of the Association of Korean Christians for National Reunification in Germany, and Rev. Cho Tok-chon, director of the Korea Institute of William Carey University, the U.S., staying in the socialist homeland.

From Foreign Organizations

*SK1604044894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a floral basket from the Committee for Planning and Cooperation of Laos on his birthday.

The floral basket was handed to the Korean Embassy in Laos.

Gifts came from the first trust of the Monolitstroil Construction Complex of Russia and the group for the study of the chuche idea of President Kim Il-song in Vienna of Austria.

The gifts were handed to the Korean Embassies in Russia and Austria.

The manager of the complex had this to say, handing the gift.

"We sincerely respect President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il. The Koreans guided by them are the most powerful and happiest people in the world. We wholeheartedly wish President Kim Il-song good health and long life."

Kim Il-song Receives Birthday Greetings, Messages

From SKNDF

*SK1504044994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441
GMT 15 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—A congratulatory message came to the great leader President Kim Il-song today from the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) on his birthday.

The message says President Kim Il-song founded the chuche idea to provide the universal truth of the perfection of man, a mighty sword for the transformation of the nature and society and has built a powerful socialist state independent, self-sustaining and self-reliant in national defence, on the land of chuche cultivated by himself.

Noting that it is a feat of the century worthy of particular note that he has perfectly solved the question of succeeding to the revolutionary cause, it stresses that as chuche Korea has the leader at its head and is guided by the sagacious leader Comrade Kim Chong-il possessed

of literary and military accomplishments. it has gained a far-flung fame as an invincible country with solid, singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses and as an ever-victorious country strong enough to defeat any aggressor forces at one blow.

"Advancing under the bright rays of chuche with the great leader as the sun of the nation, Hanminjon and the people of all walks of life have been able to steadfastly maintain the life-line in shaping the destiny and continue the movement for turning the fascist colony into an independent and democratic land, without slightest vacillation in spite of the fascist suppression and the grim trials and adversities," it says.

The message expresses the resolution to hasten the modelling of Hanminjon on the chuche idea, invigorate the righteous anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle for national salvation and activate the reunification movement under the banner of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation with the immortal chuche idea of the great leader and his constant view of "believing the people as in heaven" as the motto of the life and struggle.

It wishes President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

From Chongnyon

SK1504044394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435
GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA)—A congratulatory message came to the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song today from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on his birthday.

The message says the over 80-year-long glorious history of the respected leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song is the noblest history of the people's leader who has performed great feats that will be recorded for ever in golden letters in the history of the homeland and in the human history of the struggle for the cause of independence.

It notes that after embarking on the road of revolution, he founded the immortal chuche idea and has victoriously led the 20 years of the anti-Japanese revolution and the 50 years of creation and construction and built a powerful socialist state independent, self-sustaining and self-reliant in national defence, in the country.

It stresses that he has successfully solved the question of succeeding to the cause of socialism and carrying it to completion.

"The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with brilliant intelligence, extraordinary leadership ability and deep love for the people has ushered in a great heyday of the cause of chuche, developing the chuche idea founded by the respected leader to be the guiding idea of the era of independence," it notes.

The message says Koreans in Japan, with the honor and pride of being overseas citizens of chuche Korea, will make a greater contribution to implementing "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" put forward by the great leader and achieving the reunification in the '90s.

It wishes Generalissimo Kim Il-song good health and long life.

From Foreign Leaders

SK1604043394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413
GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received congratulatory messages from heads of state and party leaders of different countries on his birthday.

They came from President of the State of Palestine and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasir 'Arafat, President of the Republic of Madagascar Albert Zafy, President of the Republic of the Congo Pascal Lissouba, President of the Republic of Zambia Frederick J.T. Chiluba, President of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and Secretary General of the Polisario Front Mohamed Abdelaziz, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia and Chairman of the Council of Representatives Meles Zenawi, General Secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India Indrajit Gupta, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party Nina Andreyeva and Chairman of the Romanian Party for New Society Victor Voichita.

The messages extended warmest felicitations to President Kim Il-song and manifested the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean people and their peoples would grow stronger and develop.

They wished President Kim Il-song a long life in good health.

From Korean Groups in Japan

SK1704083294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0804
GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Messages of greetings came to the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, on the occasion of his birthday, from the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Standing Council of the Central Educational Association of Koreans in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Scientific and

Technological Association of Koreans in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the union of Korean literary men and artists in Japan, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Credit Associations in Japan, the Standing Council of the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Federation in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Korean Medical Society in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese Schools, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Buddhists in Japan, the Fellowship Society for Peaceful Reunification of Koreans in Japan and other organisations of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and its affiliated organisations, the Korean News Service, CHOSON SINBO, the KUWOL SOBANG publishing house, the Kungangsan opera troupe, the institute for Korean studies, the Korea-Japan export and import corporation and other enterprises, the local headquarters of Chongnyon, the central school of Chongnyon, Choson University and other Korean schools of all levels in Japan and Koreans from all walks of life.

The messages highly praised the undying feats President Kim Il-song has performed for the country and the people, the times and revolution and expressed their determination to dedicate their all to the reunification of the country and patriotic work of Chongnyon.

The messages sincerely wished Generalissimo Kim Il-song good health and a long life.

From More Koreans in Japan

SK1804050394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received congratulatory messages on the occasion of his birthday from "Mindan"-lining [as received] compatriots living in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Hokkaido, Ibaraki and other regions of Japan and South Koreans staying in Japan.

Noting that President Kim Il-song has built Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses in the Northern half of Korea and wisely led the struggle to accelerate the reunification of the country, the messages express the determination to wage a vigorous struggle in response to the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country.

The messages sincerely wish President Kim Il-song a long life in good health.

From Heads of State

SK1804052694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages of greetings on the occasion of his birthday from Lilic Zoran, president of the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; Gnassingbe Eyadema, president of the Republic of Togo; Sani Abacha, head of state and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Republic of Mozambique; Ange Patasse, president of the Central African Republic; Alpha Oumar Konare, president and head of state of the Republic of Mali; Benazir Bhutto, prime minister, and Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, president, of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; Umar Hasan Ahmed al-Bashir, president of the Republic of Sudan; Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua; and Ilyas Harawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon.

The messages extend warmest congratulations to President Kim Il-song and wish him a long life in good health.

They express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean people and the peoples of the abovesaid countries would grow stronger and develop.

From Mozambican President

SK1804053094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano said he sends sincere congratulations and greetings to President Kim Il-song on the occasion of his 82nd birthday when he received an agro-technical cooperation group of the DPRK.

Noting that President Kim Il-song is an elder of the world revolution and the most renowned leader, he said he always respects him from the bottom of his heart.

The nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula should be solved through dialogue and negotiation, he said, expressing support to all the principled stand of the DPRK on the nuclear issue.

Editorial Marks Kim Il-song's Birthday

SK1704102094 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 15
Apr 94

[NODONG SINMUN 15 April editorial: "Our Revolution Which Is Advancing With the Harmonious Unity of the Leader and People Will Always Be Victorious"]

[Text] Today in our country the leader [suryong] and people are in harmonious unity [honyon ilche] and are victoriously advancing the chuche socialist cause. We are meaningfully marking the respected and beloved leader's birthday at a time when all people's resolve and will to complete the socialist cause to the end under the leadership of the party and the leader [suryong] have been further consolidated and when the honor and dignity of

our fatherland, which is advancing under the uplifted banner of *chuche*, are displayed vigorously.

Our people and revolutionary people of the world are now celebrating the felicitous festival of April with great joys and emotion and extending the greatest honor to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The respected and beloved leader's birth is the most significant historic event in which the people's great sun rose and a great festive event never before seen in the long history spanning 5,000 years.

The proud history, in which our people have demonstrated lofty dignity as the masters of their own destinies after being united in close ties of kinship with the leader [suryong], and our fatherland's brilliant future are linked to this honorable day.

As time passes and as the revolution advances far, our people's hearts are more and more filled with great national pride in upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and a warm sense of loyalty and filial devotion with which to better serve [*tojal mosigo*] the leader [suryong] and uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

Throughout the long period from the day when he embarked on the revolutionary road, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has devoted himself to promoting the people's freedom and happiness. Throughout this long period, only the people have existed in the great leader's heart, and our leader [suryong] has always existed in our people's hearts. Today in our country this harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and people is being further consolidated into an unbreakable one. This gives our people a belief in certain victory and boundless strength and firmly guarantees the bright future of the cause of socialism of our own style.

Harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people is the greatest achievement in the Korean revolution and the source of the invincible strength of the socialism of our own style. A fundamental key to victory in socialist construction and confrontation with the imperialists is harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people. The leader [suryong] is the popular masses' top brain [*choego noesu*] and the leader [*yongdoja*] of the revolution, and the people are the masters of revolution and construction and those in charge of revolution and construction.

The people can display their boundless strength as powerful main forces of the revolution, defeat any powerful enemy, and vigorously carry out revolution and construction when they achieve harmonious unity with the leader [suryong].

From the cultivating period of our revolution up until today, our people have resolutely waged struggles while upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and strongly uniting around the leader [suryong].

The entire history in which our revolution was cultivated and advanced is brilliant as a proud annals in which harmonious unity was achieved between the leader [suryong] and the revolutionary warriors and the leader [suryong] and the people and in which victories were won based on the strength of such unity.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: Since our revolution began, the Korean communists firmly believed that they can cultivate the turbulent road of the revolution only when they uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the forefront and walked along the road of struggle and victory after overcoming all trials. They have also entrusted their entire destinies to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and lived and fought with single-hearted loyalty toward the leader [suryong] though they might live even for a moment.

The Korean revolution has embarked upon an ardent and complicated road ever since its beginning.

Since the beginning of Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary activities, the great leader has always trusted in the people and found himself among them leading the revolution. As a result, he has unreservedly displayed the qualities and traits of the great leader of the people.

Thanks to the greatness, prominent leadership traits, and lofty personality of the respected and beloved leader [suryong], the Korean communists and people have been able to forecast the victory of the revolution, as well as their future and have been able to trust and follow him as the savior of their destinies.

The great leader [suryong] believes in the people and the latter trust and follow him. The bonds between the leader [suryong] and the people are those of kinship between the father and his children. Also, so unbreakable are their bonds that make it possible to do anything under any harsh circumstances. Thus, from the beginning, our revolution has begun with harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people and has traversed a brilliant course by its might.

The harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people is a great driving force that has constantly led our revolution and construction to become ever-victorious by withstanding the harsh storm of history.

The revolution is accompanied by difficulties and trials. Because there is the harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people, we can boldly defeat any imperialist powerful enemy, as well as overcome harsh difficulties under all circumstances. This is the truth that has been proven in the long and ardent history of our revolution.

Our people had no other choice but to pioneer their destinies by confronting other powerful enemies all the time under the most disadvantageous and ardent situations. In this harsh course, there was once a difficult time that determines the destiny of the revolution, as well as periods in which we should carry out the vast and heavy

tasks. However, we have been able to embark upon the single road of victory all the time without the slightest faltering as a result of the invincible unity and cohesion of our people who are firmly united around the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Whenever we have a difficult time, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has trusted our people and solved all problems with them. Also, our people have fought against enemies by entrusting their destinies to the leader [suryong], thus respecting him.

If we had not had the harmonious unity, in which the leader [suryong] and the people are firmly united, we would not have defeated the imperialists during the two rounds of wars against them, nor smashed [punsuae] enemies' plots, nor effected the great upsurge of Chollima during the difficult period of the postwar, nor established the socialist power—independent, self-reliant, and self-defensive—on this land.

Experience shows that the harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people have a boundless might that makes it possible to defeat all powerful enemies and to effect a greater upturn in the socialist construction. The harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people is a great might in resolutely safeguarding and adhering to socialism of our own style today.

We are now carrying out the revolution and construction by acutely confronting the imperialists. The imperialists are now viciously maneuvering to isolate and crush [apsal] our country—a fortress of socialism—throughout all areas, such as politics, military affairs, the economy, and diplomacy. The single-hearted unity between the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses are, however, further strengthened.

Now, our party and the revolutionary ranks have cherished a firm faith that one will surely win a victory only if one vigorously fights on under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, thus upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Our people today are the invincible people who have a firm faith and determination to endlessly share their destinies with the leader [suryong], thus cherishing deep in their hearts the greatness of their leader [suryong].

Because all people are firmly united around the leader [suryong] and the leader [yongdoja] with their burning faith to resolutely safeguard their leader [suryong] and their leader [yongdoja], we have boldly smashed [chip-purida] any threat, blackmail, and maneuvers of aggression by the imperialists and have firmly safeguarded the socialist feats, as well as the nation's dignity and honor. This is a great demonstration of the invincible might displayed by the harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people.

It is the great pride of the Korean communist movement to have established the harmonious unity between the leader and the people early in the opening-up period of

our revolution and to have advanced the revolution and construction with the might of the unity.

The might of the harmonious unity between the leader and the people that has highly been displayed in our revolution lies, above all, in the fact that the leader and the people have become a community bound firmly together into a single life by common fate.

The leader and the people are linked with each other by common fate. In the revolutionary struggle, the leader is the pioneer and protector of the people's destinies, and the people are an invincible fortress that protects and defends the leader. The revolutionary rank can demonstrate its limitless strength when relations between the leader and the people are not only those between a leader and his followers, but also those linked by blood, in which they share life and death.

The whole course of the arduous and well-tried Korean revolution is literally a course in which the leader and the people have struggled while sharing sorrow and joy and entrusting their destinies and future to each other.

The respected and beloved leader has trusted the revolutionary fighters and the people from his heart and regarded their destinies as his own, saying that always only a true heart can fuse our blood and the people's blood in an artery, while the people have absolutely trusted, resolutely protected, and defended the leader as the center of their lives and as their supreme head [choego noesu].

The Korean revolutionaries and people have fought by devoting their lives without hesitation to shield the respected and beloved leader against the enemy's bomb-shell with their hearts. This is their lofty trait.

This exalted ideological and spiritual world can be personified only by faithful revolutionaries who identify not only their faith, will, ideology, and emotion but also their private thoughts with their leader's. This trait was the ideological and spiritual source of the creation and consolidation of the inseparable, harmonious unity between the leader and the people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is leading the people along the single road of socialism today, too, holding the responsibility of their destinies to the last, and the people are fighting with a firm faith to entrust their destinies to the party and the leader and to follow them to the end of the world. Because of this identity of fate, the harmonious unity between the leader and the people has constantly been consolidated and developed in our country.

The might of the harmonious unity between the leader and the people also lies in the fact that they are a community bound together by common ideology and will. The most important tie that links the leader and the people is the identity of ideology. When the leader elucidates the victorious course of the revolution and renders ideological leadership, the people come to

uphold the leader as their teacher and firmly unite themselves based on his ideology.

Since the creation of the immortal *chuche* idea by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in an early stage through a scientific envisagement of the demand of the times and the people's desire, our people have stoutly struggled with this revolutionary idea as a firm faith and as the only banner of unity. In those days of the struggle, our people learned by keen experience that they can achieve the prosperity of the fatherland and the victory of the revolution only by fighting along the road indicated by the respected and beloved leader, and they have upheld the leader as their great teacher.

The linkage between the leader and the people has been guaranteed by the ideological identity of sharing will and destinies based on the *chuche* idea. Today, thanks to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who has constantly developed to complete the *chuche* idea, our people's ideological identity is being consolidated even further.

Our party and the revolutionary ranks are the community of *chuche*-type revolutionaries—who struggle with the leader's revolutionary ideology, the *chuche* idea, as a firm faith—bound together by ideology and will. All party members and working people breathe, speak, and act only in conformity with our party's ideology and will.

When the party and the leader present a new line or policy, the entire party and all people rise as one to live and struggle according only to it. Thus, the harmonious unity between the leader and the people has limitless strength.

The might of the harmonious unity between the leader and the people also lies in the fact that it has been succeeded, developed, and consolidated through generations so as to consummate the socialist cause.

Blood unity between the leader [*suryong*] and the people was and is very important and will be all the more important. The people wage struggles after strongly uniting around the leader [*suryong*] in order to complete the revolution to the end. As the revolution deepens and develops today in our country, harmonious unity between the leader [*suryong*] and the people is being further consolidated.

The entire party, all the people, and the entire Army are vigorously fighting after strongly uniting around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. It shows that the harmonious unity between the leader [*suryong*] and the people, which was formed and consolidated and developed historically, has eternal vitality and is brilliantly inherited. Through their actual experiences and realities all party members and workers have come to have the belief that they can enjoy worthwhile and happy lives and complete the socialist cause to the end when they uphold the dear comrade leader. They also entrust their entire destinies to the party and the leader [*suryong*]. As a result, our revolutionary rank takes pride in the fact that it is an invincible combatant rank that has achieved strong unity

based on a single goal and aspiration and a single idea and will and advances to complete the *chuche* cause. The noble revolutionary spirit, with which this rank is filled, is the revolutionary belief and strong will that the rank, just like the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionaries who fought by even unhesitatingly risking their lives to resolutely defend the great leader, upholds the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and fights forever. Thanks to this, harmonious unity between the leader [*suryong*] and the people highly demonstrates its boundless might in our country as time goes by. This provides our fatherland and revolution with bright prospects.

When we recall the long history of the communist movement, the most solid harmonious unity between the leader [*suryong*] and the people is achieved only in the Korean revolution, which is led by the great leader. A crucial key to the achievement of this invincible unity is the greatness and nobleness of the ideas, leadership, and virtue of the respected and beloved leader, the great father [*widaehan oboi*] of our party members and workers and our fellow countrymen.

The source of the solidity of our harmonious unity is the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's idea of believing in the people as in heaven. The idea of believing in the people as in heaven, an idea that one considers the people to be heaven, is an opinion and motto that the great leader cherishes in the entire course of revolution and construction. The *chuche* idea's profound principle that one considers the popular masses to be the masters of revolution and construction and relies on their strength comes from idea of believing in the people as in heaven. The *chuche*-oriented theories and leadership methods also come from this idea.

In resolving any issues concerning revolution and construction, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has given priority to the people's interests, had their aspirations and demands reflected on all lines and policies, and made all efforts to implement those aspirations and demands. The idea of believing in the people as in heaven is reflected on all lines and policies Kim Il-song presented historically, from the lines on building the party, the country, and the Army, which he presented at the early stage of building new society, and to the party's revolutionary economic strategy today.

The revolutionary strategies and tactics which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song present for the sake of the popular masses; the people-oriented policies; the favors which the party and the leader [*suryong*] do each family and each individual on an equal basis give rise to the people's absolute trust for the party and the leader [*suryong*] and strongly connect the party and the people in a single artery.

Just like the idea of believing in the people as in heaven is eternal, our solid harmonious unity which was achieved based on this great idea will not shake. The most solid blood ties between the leader [*suryong*] and the people were formed in our country because the

achievements which the respected and beloved leader has brought about in the struggle for the popular masses' cause of independence are great.

A great leader [yongdoja] wins respect and trust from the people not because someone stands him in front; he does so because of his own achievements. Numerous boundlessly difficult and massive tasks never before seen in history were presented in our people's struggle for sovereignty and independence. In the long revolutionary course, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has led every stage and type of struggle to victory in order to carry out the cause of independence in our era. And, in this process, he has brought about immortal achievements, which will remain brilliant forever in the history of mankind, in political, economic, political, and cultural fields and all the other fields.

The achievements of building the chuche-type party and the people's government, which responsibly take care of the popular masses' destinies; the achievements of building the people's genuine revolutionary armed forces, which defend the people's freedom and happiness; the achievements of raising our people into revolutionary people who have a strong sense of independence; the achievements of building popular masses-centered socialism of our own style in this land where only backwardness and poverty prevailed; and all the other achievements which the respected and beloved leader has brought about win admiration from all people.

The history of any other country in the East or West or in the past or present age has not seen a leader [yongdoja] like our respected and beloved leader, who has brought all historic achievements for the people as best as he can and raised the people's position to the peak of the era.

The achievements which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has brought about are immortal achievements which he has brought about for the people while riding out the road of arduous struggle with the people.

In bringing about these achievements, the respected and beloved leader has faced all hardships that a revolutionary may face and has overcome trials and difficulties.

During the days of the anti-Japanese struggle, he personally took the lead in the arduous march to break through the line of death and find a way out; after the liberation, he first embarked on the road toward building the country; and today, when he is over 80 years old, is giving on-the-spot guidance to plants and enterprises and farms across the country and devoting himself to giving greater happiness to our people. This devotion to and sleepless and restless efforts for the fatherland and people by the respected and beloved leader is incomparable to anyone else's. Therefore, every time they think of the great leader's achievements for them, our people consolidate their determination to better serve the leader [suryong] with loyalty, devotion, and single-mindedness.

The most solid harmonious unity between the leader [suryong] and the people was achieved in our country because the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's virtue is great and because his people-oriented trait is boundlessly noble.

A great politician has noble virtue, and the people become happy because of such a virtue. The respected and beloved leader's politics is the politics of love and trust and that of virtue.

The great leader, who started the revolution by winning comrades, has not hesitated to face any hardship if it were for his comrades and people, considered having many comrades to be the most important asset, and considered winning love and trust from the people to be the greatest happiness. In this way, he has written the most beautiful annals of revolutionary comradeship and human love.

Millions of members of our party rank were raised amid the respected and beloved leader's revolutionary comradeship and human love, and single-hearted unity was achieved in the entire society in which all people are strongly united based on comradely love and revolutionary moral obligation.

The respected and beloved leader's is a great bosom that amazes all people and leads them into a single worthwhile revolutionary road.

The boundless love in trusting anyone who has embarked on a revolutionary road and leading him to a worthwhile struggle; the boundless magnanimity in embracing even those who have different political views, religions, or classes and leading them to a noble patriot road; and the generosity in leading even those who have committed mistakes on a revolutionary road to make a fresh start and responsibly taking care of their destinies to the end: This is the nature of the great leader.

Captivated by this character of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who is a human being of human beings and a politician of politicians, the revolutionary warriors follow him, the people follow him, and all fellow countrymen follow him.

The respected and beloved leader, who is best in ideology, best in achievements, and best in virtue, is truly the eternal sun for the survival of our people and nation.

Today our people have an honorable and rewarding task of further solidifying the ties of kinship with their leader [suryong] and their leader [yongdoja] and vigorously accelerating the general onward march of our-style socialism with the might of wholehearted unity.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: We should attach the greatest importance to the unity and cohesion of the party and the popular masses, strengthen and develop it onto a higher plane, and make the party a mighty party taking deeper root in the popular masses.

The wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the people has been and will be the life line of our style socialism and the ever-victorious banner. We must make the road of our revolution's onward march a history of the strongest ties of kinship between the leader [suryong] and the people and between the leader [yongdoja] and the fighter. To do this, all the party members and working people should, above all, unite around the party and the leader with the great pride in being blessed with the happiness of having the leader.

The greatest happiness of the people is enjoying the leadership of the great leader [widaehan suryong] who has brilliant wisdom, outstanding leadership, and noble virtue. Their greatest misfortune is having a wrong leader [kajang kun purhaengun yongdojarul chalmot mannanungosida]. This is well proven by the long history of the international communist movement and today's reality. Socialism, which was built over decades, fell in many countries, and the people in those countries are in distress. The fundamental cause of this was that they did not have the leader who is faithful to the cause of socialism and the people.

Our people are a proud people who have always lived enjoying the tested leadership of the great leader [suryong] and the great leader [yongdoja] throughout the entire period of the revolution and construction. Upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, our people have been able to display their glory of a great people who have traversed the road of independence and socialism without deviation. Upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, they are able to display their pride in being a happy people inheriting and completing the cause of the revolution most brilliantly.

The greatest blessing our people enjoy is the blessing of having the leader. Greeting the festive 15 April holiday, we must bear this happiness deeper in our hearts and renew our resolve to devote ourselves to the party and the leader with utmost loyalty and filial duty.

We must have a firm faith that we will never fail to be victorious because we have the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—the general of generals who is skilled in both literary and military arts and tames a fierce head wind—as the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people and as the supreme commander of the revolutionary armed forces, and crush any maneuvers of the imperialists resolutely with a revolutionary offensive.

Because we are blessed with the happiness of having the leader, we must be loyal and dutiful to the leader. The faith in and the revolutionary volition to the leader—this is a warm conscience not forgetting the benevolence of the leader who has brought us up as a revolutionary and who has given us true life, and it is a firm revolutionary principle of not deserting our pledge to the leader even in a solitary island in the distant sea or on a guillotine. The ties of kinship with our leader are more firmly connected and unbreakable by this faith and fidelity.

All the party members and working people must not only cherish their loyalty to the great leader and the dear comrade leader as their firm faith but make it their conscience, morality, and life so that they can firmly prepare themselves to be loyalists and dutiful children not knowing any change of mind.

Resolutely adhering and adding luster to our-style socialism, which was built by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and led by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the loftiest duty of all the party members and working people. In the superior chuche socialist system and in all the gains of the revolution built in this land are the labors of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song which he devoted in the long and arduous path of the revolution, as well as the blood and perspiration of the revolutionary martyrs who were boundlessly loyal to the leader. No matter what complicated situation may be created against us and no matter what trials may overtake us, we can never give up these gains or allow them to be damaged.

With unswerving confidence in the correctness and future of the chuche-based socialist cause pioneered on our own, all the people should more firmly bear the revolutionary determination to follow the road of socialism to the end under the leadership of respected and beloved supreme commander General Kim Chong-il.

All the party members and working people should invariably implement revolutionary lines and principles, including the line of three revolutions, construction of self-reliant national economy, and the military line of self-reliance which have been consistently adhered to by the great leader and the comrade dear leader, and should further vigorously accelerate the general march movement of socialism of our own style.

We should manifest the might of socialism of our own style to the whole world by marking a new advance in the struggle to implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy while highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. Consolidating our party and people's single-hearted unity centered around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il into an impregnable fortress is a firm guarantee for inheriting and completing the chuche-based socialist cause to the end.

All functionaries and party members should inherit our revolution's tradition of single-hearted unity, always bear in mind the great leader's teaching that we should strengthen reunification and cohesion with the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the center, and regard the teaching as a firm guidance to all party works and activities.

As did the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs, who had the great Comrade Hanbyol as the center of the cohesion and leadership and staunchly defended him in the past, we should defend our destiny and defender Comrade Kim Chong-il as bullets and gun shells to the end.

We should strengthen the ranks' principal cohesion based on the faithfulness toward the party and the leader and revolutionary comradeship, and make our society a big family with the great leader and the dear leader as our father, and develop it as a warm society where everyone helps and leads each other as real brothers.

More than 80 years have passed since the great sun rose in the dark sky of Korea. What our people have invariably kept in their minds during the meaningful days when the most significant incidents of the 20th century took place is the enthusiastic wish to uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for thousands and tens of thousands of years until the sun and the moon vanish.

Our people's respect grows as more new records are added to the chronicle of the *chuche* cause. With the great pride and self-confidence of upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—the most experienced leader of our times—our people will vigorously fight on to complete the *chuche*-based socialist cause.

Our revolutionary cause, which is vigorously advancing with the harmonious unity between the great leader and the great people, is forever victorious and indomitable.

South Korea

Minister Voices Optimism on Nuclear Issue
SK1804001694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0003
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Brussels, April 17 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu voiced optimism Sunday [17 April] on settling the North Korean nuclear dispute.

Talks between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are likely to go well, Han told reporters in Brussels, where he presided over an annual meeting of Korean envoys serving in Europe.

The North's reaction cannot but be limited, particularly since China is urging acceptance of nuclear inspections, he noted.

The foreign minister reiterated that Seoul will keep dialogue channels open with Pyongyang to prevent the nuclear issue from entering a critical phase.

He added that the inter-Korean envoy exchange was withdrawn as a precondition to further Pyongyang-Washington talks for that very reason.

In his opening address at the envoy meeting, Han said Seoul will draw up proper environmental, labor and economic policies to work within the World Trade Organization after the Uruguay Round's conclusion.

President on Nuclear Issue at Tourism Conference
SK1804030194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Monday that North Korea would not defy world opinion as expressed in a recent statement by the U.N. Security Council president, nor would it dare any military provocations in the face of joint South Korean-U.S. security arrangements.

Addressing the opening session of the 43rd annual conference of the Pacific-Asia Travel Association [PATA] at the Korea exhibition center, Kim predicted South Korea would join the family of developed nations "as a new member before the 20th century is out," stressing the country's march "into a better tomorrow will never falter."

"The Korean people are full of confidence and energy despite North Korea's nuclear arms development and its capacity for all other kinds of irrational behavior," he added.

Welcoming delegates from 40 countries, Kim noted the Asia-Pacific is taking center stage: "Nations in this region are now pulling together to forge an era of concord and cooperation, putting to rest their past enmity and confrontation. In response, the Republic of Korea has also been striving to promote the shared prosperity of this part of the world, working especially through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

"The Republic of Korea has realized almost miraculous development and has overcome numerous adversities stemming in particular from the tragic partitioning of its land. In a single generation, it has managed to turn itself into an Asian model of democracy and a market economy. Especially since I took office, our country has wiped out the vestiges of our dark past while... promoting internationalization... and creating a society free of misconduct and corruption, a healthy society in which freedom and justice flourish. Our economy is regaining vitality, and a new dynamism is pervading all sectors of society."

Kim, saying tourism is helping to narrow the economic gap between developed and developing nations by promoting cooperation, expressed hope that the Seoul PATA conference would provide "a major impetus to international cooperation to underpin this new era of openness, as well as open up new horizons for the travel industry in the 21st century."

Kim Il-song Interviewed by Western Reporters
SK1804075394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0941
GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] New York, April 15 (YONHAP)—North Korea's top leader Kim Il-song flatly denied possessing or thinking of possessing nuclear weapons in a press conference with Western reporters Friday.

He said he wants to visit the United States to do some hunting, fishing and to "make friends."

The 82-year-old ruler of the most isolated nation of the world said anyone who wants a war on the Korean peninsula must be out of his mind, adding his country will never use nuclear weapons against Koreans.

Parts of his two and half hour press conference was broadcast on Cable News Network (CNN) whose Beijing bureau chief Mike Chinoy was among the Western press group that went into North Korea to report on Kim's birthday April 15.

He reacted with irritation when asked about North Korea's suspected nuclear program, saying the international community demands to see nuclear weapons that North Korea simply doesn't have.

It's useless to own nuclear weapons, Kim said in the press conference, North Korea doesn't have the delivery system to launch such weapons, and his country is too small to attempt nuclear tests.

But other than denying any nuclear development, Kim made no reference to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s demands for additional inspection on the North Korean nuclear complex.

Kim described how he was proud of his heir-apparent son Kim Chong-il and denied reports of his failing health, saying he is in good condition.

'Sea of Fire' Remark 'Made Out of Excitement'

*SK1804020794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The head of the North Korean delegation to the eighth round of inter-Korean working-level talks will likely be relieved of his post due to trouble caused by his remarks at talks threatening to turn Seoul into a "sea of fire," South Korean Government officials said Sunday.

Pak Yong-su, also deputy director (vice-minister level) of the Secretariat of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, has been in an awkward position since the threat triggered international criticism.

Pak's position was seemingly worsened by Seoul's withdrawal of its demand for an envoy exchange, the officials said.

"We saw Pak trying to make his ability acknowledged by the North Korean leadership during the eighth round of inter-Korean talks," they said. "The only way for Pak to survive seems to be proving his value once another round of working-level talks resumes."

The officials added, however, "It is not likely that he will survive because we are not pursuing the exchange of envoys."

North Korean officials have recently tried to appease the international community, with Workers' Party Secretary Kim Yong-sun explaining that Pak's remarks were made out of excitement. Moreover, one of the other delegates to the meeting said on a Pyongyang talk show that Pak's remarks had been distorted by the South.

ROK-U.S. 'High-Level Consultations' Reported

*SK1804071694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0703
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean and U.S. officials reaffirmed Monday that Washington will not hold further high-level dialogue with North Korea unless the latter allows satisfactory international nuclear inspections.

The inspection deadline is early May as indicated in last month's U.N. Security Council presidential statement, Kim Sam-hun, South Korea's ambassador on North Korean nuclear affairs, said after meeting his U.S. counterpart Robert Gallucci in high-level consultations here.

The two sides also reaffirmed the principle that inter-Korean dialogue is indispensable to fully clearing up the nuclear problem.

"The most immediate issue is getting North Korea to accept additional inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," Kim told reporters after nearly three hours of talks.

The next Pyongyang-Washington high-level talks will be the final opportunity to resolve the nuclear dispute, the ambassador said. "The South Korean and U.S. Governments are ready to discuss North Korea's interests and demands in the political, security and economic fields related to improving relations once the nuclear obstacle is out of the way."

Kim suggested adjustments in the North Korean-U.S. "small package deal" that included suspension of this year's "Team Spirit" military exercise that Seoul and Washington stage annually.

South Korea and the United States announced earlier the maneuvers would be cancelled this year on condition that North Korea allowed full nuclear checks.

"We can't say that the entire agreement is void, but adjustments are inevitable," said Kim.

Gallucci, assistant secretary of State who was appointed chairman of the newly established U.S. senior policy steering group on Korea, flew into Seoul on Sunday.

The consultations came immediately after Seoul announced last week that it would no longer demand inter-Korean dialogue as a precondition for the third round of North Korean-U.S. high-level talks.

Kim was at pains to emphasize that Seoul has not given up on inter-Korean channels.

"The two countries confirmed the principle that the issues of the Korean peninsula, including the nuclear situation, have to be solved through inter-Korean dialogue," said Kim.

"We agreed that while South-North Korean and North Korean-U.S. talks should be harmonized, the two channels must be managed as complementary," he said.

But future South-North dialogue "will have to carry substance and be meaningful," he said. "The dialogue will be aimed specifically at denuclearizing the Korean peninsula."

The timing and format of the dialogue are under negotiation between Seoul and Washington, he said, citing the inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission and prime ministers' talks as possible examples.

The ambassador denied speculation that Washington may hold the next high-level meeting with Pyongyang just on North Korea's promise to permit further IAEA inspections.

"There must be full and complete additional inspections by the IAEA," he said.

Kim referred to the March 31 statement by the Security Council president which asked the IAEA to report back to the council on North Korea's nuclear program in a few weeks, which is tacitly understood as early May.

"You can assume that the period mentioned in the statement is, in actuality, the deadline," he said.

Seoul, U.S. Agree on DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK1804060194 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 18 April 94

[Text] It was learned that the ROK and the United States held high-level talks on 18 April to deal with the North Korean nuclear issue.

In the talks, the two sides reaffirmed their previous position on the immediate resumption of the third round of the U.S.-North Korean talks if North Korea accepts additional inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Yi Kang-tok reports:

[Begin Yi recording] Today, Kim Sam-hun, our side's nuclear ambassador, and his U.S. counterpart Robert Gallucci held high-level talks to deal with the nuclear issue and held the same view that the third round of the U.S.-North Korean talks would be held only after realizing additional inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities.

The two countries agreed to seek sanctions through the UN Secretary Council if North Korea fails to accept additional inspections by next month.

Since the UN Secretary Council president's statement called for dialogue among countries concerned, the two sides also agreed to resume the U.S.-North Korean working-level talks in New York if North Korea first proposes contacts.

They shared the same view that inter-Korean talks are necessary for the realization of the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. However, they agreed to set the date for resumption of the inter-Korean dialogue after watching the developments of the nuclear issue, including the resumption of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks.

In particular, the two countries have decided to have close consultations on specific items to be discussed in U.S.-North Korean talks, which will take place if North Korea allows additional inspections.

In today's talks, the two sides decided to resume the Team Spirit joint exercise in the event the North Korean nuclear issue continues to experience rough sailing and to map out detailed measures when U.S. Defense Secretary visits Seoul on 19 April. [end recording]

First Shipment of Patriot Missiles Arrive

SK1804025794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Pusan, South Korea, April 18 (YONHAP)—Two U.S. Navy transport ships carrying Patriot missiles arrived in the southeastern port of Pusan on Monday [18 April].

The 13,000-ton "Comet" and 16,460-ton "Meteor" left the U.S. Navy Base in Oakland bound for Pusan on March 23, with an undisclosed number of Patriot launch pads and other equipment aboard.

These missiles, in addition to others due to arrive sometime in the future, are expected to be deployed at military bases here by April 29, military officials said.

The Patriot anti-missile missiles are a more advanced version than those used during the Gulf war in 1991.

A military official said, "the Patriot anti-missile missiles will considerably reinforce the air defense capability here. It is the most effective defense system against possible air attack."

Withdrawal of Demand for Envoy Swap Assessed

SK1604053394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Article by Chang Yong-sop]

[Text] Washington, April 15 (YONHAP)—Now that South Korea has withdrawn the proposed inter-Korean exchange of special envoys as a prerequisite to the third round of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks, attention is focusing on whether Seoul's initiative will provide a clue to solving the nuclear question.

It may be premature to jump to conclusions but cautious expectations are being voiced in Washington that because of the move, working-level U.S.-North Korean talks may resume around next weekend to discuss additional inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In fact, a few signs backing up such expectations have trickled out of the communist country in recent days.

One was Western press representatives' invitation to North Korea for the April 15 birthday of President Kim Il-sung, aged 82.

The invitees included correspondents from CNN-TV and the WASHINGTON TIMES in the United States and Japan's NHK-TV.

The invitation was taken by North Korea watchers as a conciliatory gesture by the normally intransigent North Koreans.

In an interview with CNN-TV, Kim Yong-sun, a Workers' (communist) Party secretary involved in inter-Korean affairs, said, "We do not want a war and are prepared to return to the table of dialogue."

Kim then tried to tone down the inflammatory remark, "in a war Seoul will be turned into a sea of fire," made by the chief North Korean delegate to a recent inter-Korean working-level meeting at Panmunjom.

It was this statement that prompted Seoul and Washington to take hasty steps to ship sophisticated defensive weaponry to South Korea.

Diplomatic sources here observe that once Kim Il-sung's birthday celebrations are over, North Korea may renew dialogue with the United States as a face-saving tactic.

The sources say that North Korea is well aware of the early-May deadline for its acceptance of additional inspections and that it would face harsher pressure if it failed to heed the deadline.

One source said, however, that even if working-level talks resumed late next week, rough sailing would await the two sides before they could manage to hammer out an agreement on additional checks.

The North Koreans are likely to continue demanding that working-level Washington-Pyongyang talks precede additional checks, while the United States will maintain that a full inspection of all declared facilities should occur before any talks with North Korea.

State Department Spokesman Mike McCurry made it clear at a press briefing Friday that no further U.S.-North Korean talks would take place before inspections have ensured the continuity of nuclear safeguards in North Korea.

In other words, Washington's strategy is to address the issue of inspecting undeclared North Korean facilities at

a third meeting by winding up the question of looking into declared sites before the talks open.

North Korea's plan, on the other hand, is to obtain the maximum possible concessions from the United States by using the card of additional inspections of its declared facilities.

More Commentary on Withdrawal

SK1604065094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of editorials carried by ROK vernacular newspapers on 16 April on the ROK Government's withdrawal of the demand for an exchange of envoys before the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Aftermath of the Abandonment of the Proposal that Special Envoys Be Exchanged Before U.S.-North Korean Talks."

The editorial reports that the exchange of special envoys was "not an idea from which one can expect much." It then writes: "We must be wary of the possibility that U.S.-North Korean talks will proceed toward the direction of turning a blind eye to North Korea's possible possession of one or two nuclear weapons."

The editorial continues: "If U.S.-North Korean talks are held as a result of the ROK Government's abandonment of the proposal that special envoys be exchanged before U.S.-North Korean talks, those talks must provide ways to ensure the transparency of the North Korean nuclear issue." It concludes: "We must show North Korea that its efforts toward a military buildup in the post-cold war era will only hasten its own destruction."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Abandonment of the Exchange of Special Envoys and the Reformulation of Policies."

The editorial reports that from the beginning the special envoy exchange plan was unrealistic and inefficient and that even if the North and South had exchanged special envoys, those envoys would have merely been busy visiting the North and South.

The editorial continues: "The ROK Government must consolidate cooperative relations with the United States and propose North-South dialogue to North Korea, separately from U.S.-North Korean negotiations, to resume the operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee to ensure that the North and South pursue mutual inspections and achieve the denuclearization of this region." The editorial continues that the "ROK Government must boldly allow North-South economic cooperation" if North Korea accepts inspections from the International Atomic Energy Agency and special inspections of its two unreported facilities.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "We Must Lead North Korea to Dialogue."

The editorial describes the government's abandonment of the special envoy plan as an "important change" in the policy toward North Korea. The editorial writes that the abandonment of the special envoy plan can serve as an "efficient means to pressure North Korea," adding: "This is because this may warn North Korea that if it rejects reforms and opening up and pursues its nuclear program, its system can be shaken entirely. It is important for us to find means to lead North Korea to beg for dialogue with South Korea."

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "North Korea Must Take Corresponding Measures."

The editorial first writes that the government's abandonment of the special envoy plan can serve as a "break-through in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue." It then asks the related government ministries to realize that North Korea's "ultimate goal is to buy time to develop nuclear weapons, rather than merely using the nuclear card in diplomacy." The editorial concludes: "As long as the reason we abandoned the exchange of special envoys is clear, North Korea must take corresponding measures as a matter of course. It must unconditionally receive additional inspections by early May as demanded by the UN Security Council president's statement. It must no longer try to get concessions from the United States and leave South Korea out in the cold."

DPRK's Proposal for National Meeting Analyzed
SK1604055694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0522
GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—North Korea has again proposed a grand national meeting that smacks of a mass rally in an effort to solve inter-Korean problems.

The proposal was made by Supreme People's Assembly (parliament) Speaker Yang Hyong-sop at a meeting of government and political party leaders held in Pyongyang on April 11. Yang offered to hold a grand national meeting in Seoul or Pyongyang on Aug. 15, the 49th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese rule, to discuss ways of achieving grand national unity.

Among the big shots taking part in the April 11 meeting were Premier Kang song-san, Vice Premier Kim Pyong-sik and Workers' (Communist) Party Secretary Kim Yong-sun, to name but a few, according to the official North Korea watcher here, NAEWOE press.

Yang also proposed that invitations be sent to leaders of the government, political parties and social organizations in South Korea as well as well-known Koreans overseas asking them to come to the grand national meeting.

The proposed meeting, in its style and agenda, is similar to the all-Koreans' sessions the North Koreans have proposed in their propaganda offensive against South Korea over the years.

Yang, saying the meeting should discuss achieving unity among all Koreans for national reunification, proposed the creation of a preparatory committee comprising five figures apiece from North and South Korea and overseas Korean communities.

Pyongyang's fresh offer on a grand national conference is considered by many North Korea watchers here as an attempt to renew its unification front scheme, with a view toward turning its defensive position in inter-Korean relations to its advantage.

Means of solving such inter-Korean problems as tension over the nuclear issue must be discussed at government-level talks. But the North Koreans want to hold an all-Koreans' meeting smacking of a mass rally in an apparent move to confuse South Korea, analysts say.

It should be pointed out that the proposal came after North Korea ruptured the working-level inter-Korean dialogue on exchanging special envoys by threatening to turn Seoul into "a sea of flames" if war breaks out.

It should also be noted that whenever inter-Korean relations reach an impasse, the North Koreans come up with a unification front scheme disguised as an all-Koreans' meeting to change the situation in their favor.

In May 1990, President Kim Il-song presented a five-point unification program to the Supreme People's Assembly during its plenary session. The program envisioned forming a unification front, among other things, widely seen here as a scheme to cause social confusion in a South Korea that was then in a fever for unification.

And in April last year, North Korea's parliament adopted President Kim Il-song's 10-point program for national unification through grand unity, which also called for a unification front.

The unification front scheme camouflages the North Korean unification strategy to stir up revolution in South Korea. The recent grand national conference proposal should be seen in the context of this strategy because it came just a year after the North Korean parliament adopted the 10-point unification program. The proposal is thus seen by many analysts of North Korean affairs here as a tactical variation of its unification strategy.

The proposal may also be regarded as an attempt by the North to solve its problems with the South and the United States over the nuclear dispute, by seeking a consensus of all Koreans around the world on the issue.

With the U.N. Security Council-set deadline for additional inspections of its nuclear facilities approaching, North Korea needs a breakthrough and the grand

national meeting proposal may be seen as a way out through unofficial dialogue with South Korea.

Analysts say the North Koreans must feel the all-Koreans' meeting will help solve the nuclear issue in their talks with the Americans.

They observe that Pyongyang will intensify its propaganda offensive against Seoul by publicizing its grand national conference proposal.

Kim Il-song's 'Deteriorating' Health Described

SK1804003194 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 16 Apr 94 p 5

[Article by Yu Yong-ku: "Kim Il-song's Health Deteriorating With Geriatric Diseases"]

[Text] Although North Korean President Kim Il-song, who has just turned 82, is still continuing political activities, he is suffering from various geriatric diseases. He often falls into a comatose state these days, thus signaling a red flag in his physical condition.

Although President Kim Il-song has boasted to foreign visitors that he keeps healthy thanks to his "optimistic outlook on life," informed sources, such as those who have recently visited North Korea and met President Kim Il-song and Chinese medical circles, say that his physical health has been deteriorating with each passing day because of various geriatric diseases, such as senile dementia, enlargement of the lump on the back of his neck, neurotic disorder of the lumbar vertebra, heaviness in the chest from a heart pacemaker, and mental confusion.

When he appeared on the rostrum of the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in Pyongyang to deliver a New Year's address on 31 December it was revealed that he has distinct difficulty in walking resulting from retrogressive arthritis.

The arthritis causes pain in the area above the hip, so he has to be assisted by two or three secret servicemen when he climbs up stairs.

The most distinct proof of the deterioration of his health is a speech disorder resulting from senile dementia. While reading this year's New Year's address, he made errors and his pronunciation was indistinct from a droop in his lower lip. These errors and indistinct pronunciation of words occurred some 70 times during this year's New Year's address, compared with 30 times during his 1993 New Year's address.

Because of the senile dementia, his right hand trembles, he has difficulty in chewing food, and frequently uses a handkerchief to wipe off the area around his mouth.

His sight has deteriorated to the extent that he has to read documents in large printed letters with reading glasses. The hearing in his right ear is so deteriorated that he frequently says, "What did you say?" For this reason,

when he receives foreign visitors, he has Sony Japanese-made speakers installed in each seat.

The lump on the back of his head, which is an obesity-caused tumor, is confirmed to have deteriorated so much that it presses against the larynx nerve.

The lump is not life-threatening, but an operation to remove it is impossible because it is located close to the cranial nerve. Some 10 doctors recommended by the CPC performed an acupuncture procedure in October 1992, but he still suffers from increasing pain from the pressure on the larynx nerve. Because of the neurotic disorder of the lumbar vertebra, President Kim Il-song has recently reduced the length of his discussions and speeches to one hour and half an hour respectively under ordinary circumstances. He refrains from traveling by airplane or by car on unsurfaced roads, which can adversely affect the lumbar vertebra.

He also avoids standing or walking for long periods of time. He uses a wheel chair when he is at his villa.

The degree of his shaking backward and forward while standing has increased compared with last year, as witnessed by many.

In addition, President Kim Il-song, who has cardiovascular disease, invited a medical specialist from the former East Germany at the end of 1972 to perform an operation to dilate his heart blood vessels and to insert a heart pacemaker. In 1987, he was operated on again for the insertion of another aid device by a French surgical specialist. Since the end of 1991, medical doctors from the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan have regularly visited North Korea to check his physical condition. In February 1992, however, he was unconscious for a few minutes, so he received a secret treatment at a villa in Chongjin for one month in the middle of September of that year.

Meanwhile, with Kim Il-song's health deteriorating with each passing day, the North Korean authorities are reported to be training those who resemble Kim's appearance and constitution, selecting them through an advertisement on "recruiting actors for a documentary film" for security and acting training, including intonation and walking-style training, to prevent confusion that may result after Kim Il-song's death.

IAEA Begins Inspection of Nuclear Facilities

SK1804021494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0209 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) started routine safety checks Monday at nuclear power facilities in South Korea.

Two IAEA inspectors, A. Bodadilla Muchino of Mexico and I. Acquah of Ghana, arrived in Seoul Sunday for a one-week inspection of nuclear reactors in Kori, Uljin and Youngkwang, as well as nuclear processing facilities.

They begin their official duties by examining documents and records on management and storage of nuclear fuel and comparing them with on-the-spot field studies.

They will change the batteries and film of surveillance equipment and seal some areas when necessary. Storage of used nuclear fuel will also come under investigation.

Officials said the IAEA conducts routine inspections every two months of the heavy-water reactor at Wolsung and every four months of the other eight light-water reactors.

The inspectors will first visit the Seoul office of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) to study records on its research reactor and management of nuclear fuel.

They will then tour the research center at Taeduk science town and check KAERI's research facilities and manufacture of heavy-water fuel as well as its processing of Australian uranium.

They also plan to investigate KAERI's light-water fuel manufacturing company to check its use and storage of uranium imports.

President Stresses Importance of Military Morale

*SK1804113094 Seoul YONHAP in English 1107
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said on Monday that now is a crucial period for national security and what is most important in this stage is the morale of the armed forces. "A high military morale springs from courage, confidence and hope. You military leaders should be clean-handed and imposing if only to earn love and trust from people," Kim said.

The president, the supreme military commander, made the remarks while meeting at Chongwadae [presidential office] a group of senior Army and Air Force officers who were reassigned in Saturday's reshuffle.

He also asked military officers to try to contribute to forming a better relationship between Korea and the United States. "Since the U.S. Administration values reports from field military commanders, we can have smoother relations with Washington depending on your efforts," he said.

The military leaders the president met included Gen. Chang Song, deputy commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, and Lt. Gens. Kim Sok-won, Kwak Tong-to, Yu Chae-yol, Kim Chong-nam, Yu Chong-kap and Pak Chon-taek.

International Trade Order 'Mixed Blessing'

*SK1804022694 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in
English 18 Apr 94 p 8*

[Article by Kim Chang-yong]

[Text] The newest chapter in the international trade order will be a mixed blessing for the Korean economy and its advantage, or disadvantage, will be chiefly dependent on how the nation copes with it.

It will ease all tariff and non-tariff barriers, making the world a border-less market for globally competitive companies. It will simultaneously mean a losing game for less competitive companies even in their home markets.

"The world will be exposed to the law of the jungle in which the lion has the largest share," one economist said, noting "We can no longer provide visible or invisible shelters for our industry."

The process of the Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations, which brought a victory to the United States and the European Union and a negative impact, if not a defeat, to most other economies, was a "fierce war itself" as the Federation of Korean Industries [FKI], the lobbying group of large companies, put it.

Public officials and private analysts cite sharp tariff cuts for manufactured goods, abolition of non-tariff discriminations and clarified and justified procedures for the settlement of trade disputes as some of the potential bonuses to the exports of Korea's manufacturing sector.

Reinforced regulations on anti-dumping ruling will particularly save Korean companies from threats and actions by advanced countries including the U.S., EU and Australia. Korean products have been slapped with anti-dumping charges from time to time.

Improved conditions for overseas investment will also draw foreign capital into the nation, while encouraging local businessmen to invest abroad.

All in all, manufacturing industries are expected to get more than they lose under the Uruguay Round agreement.

Major advanced countries, which have not lowered tariffs since the start of the multilateral talks in 1986, are obliged to slash the rates gradually, thus enhancing the competitiveness of products exported by developing countries and thereby giving them higher chances of access.

Imports are not likely to jump drastically, officials said, on the ground that its concessional tariffs are set at 8.1 percent for the 2001, the final year of implementation of the new round, which is higher than the currently actual rate of 7.9 percent.

The Korean Institute for International Economic Policy recently estimated exports growth, to be caused by the freer world trade order, at 2,250 billion dollars on the annual average.

Imports will grow a meager 720 million dollars, according to the brain trust for the Economic Planning Board [EPB], the top economic agency.

The state-run Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade gave a conservative forecast—a 620-710 million dollar jump in exports and a 60 million dollar rise in imports.

"The Uruguay Round will be a plus for our economy from the macroscopic and long-term perspectives," said a high-ranking EPB official who is campaigning to calm down controversy over what many Koreans just call "UR." "Korea, over half whose gross national product comes from trade, has to pursue prosperity through international economic ties."

The free trade regime will be a great disservice to some light industries like footwear, textiles and garments, which are being dogged by products from newcomers including China, Malaysia and Thailand, needless to say agriculture.

In the agricultural field along, UR damages will amount to an estimated 7.7 trillion won (approximately 9.6 billion dollars) over the next seven years, resulting in the exodus of half of the rural population to urban areas, according to the Korea Rural Economic Institute.

The influence of the UR on Korea's economy will be commensurate with its countersteps.

Assistant Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Chang Sok-hwan stressed the need for the "decisive role" of private enterprises in stepping up their competitiveness and image worldwide.

"The settlement of the new trade regulations forces the administration to trim its intervention in the private sector in the course of its technical development, trade and other overall business activities. The government will remain as a supporter and the private sector will take the initiative in this regard."

Business organizations appeared passive as if they were little concerned about the drastically new system which dismissed two agriculture, forestry and fisheries ministries as scapegoats to appease angry farmers and fishermen, backed by opposition lawmakers and students in Korea.

The FKI commented, "It is necessary to nurture competitiveness of some industries that have comparative edge in the world market. A new economic climate should also be created in which business activities are subject to market mechanisms."

The Korea Foreign Trade Association called for technological innovation and management reform, while the Korea Federation of Small Business regretted the administration's unpreparedness for the order.

Opposition Parties Agree To Try To Unify

SK1804100594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0857
GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—A blockbuster plan for a grand alliance of opposition parties and dissident groups is afoot again following a meeting of representatives of the Democratic Party (DP) and two minor parties last Saturday.

Reps. Kim Tong-kil of the United People's Party and Yi Chong-chan of the New Korea Party got together to bid farewell to Yi Ki-taek, chairman of the Democratic Party (DP), who is scheduled to visit the United States. It was at this get-together that the three opposition leaders agreed to form a working-level body to tackle problems related to formation of a unified opposition party. The agreement is described by many as "a step forward" from a similar pact reached last January, according to political analysts. Since an undercurrent for a unified opposition party has been flowing for sometime, discussions on the alliance are expected to pick up steam once the working-level body is set up, they said.

The need for this grand alliance is being felt by opposition politicians as they look toward elections for heads of autonomous local governments, they added. Nevertheless, the prevailing opinion among independent observers is that the notion of rallying all opposition parties together under one flag is easier said than done since each party has its own built-in problems as well as differences in political colors and tendencies. The problems would become even more complicated if the opposition parties were to embrace all dissident groups, they said.

The key to the proposed alliance is held by the DP and the United People's Party, whose positions differ considerably. The New Korea Party, which currently has only two lawmakers, poses few problems for a union, they said. Within the DP, the various factions have reportedly reached a consensus on a unified opposition party.

Chairman Yi Ki-taek and leaders of the "non-mainstream" factions such as Reps. Kim Sang-hyon and Kim Won-ki are prepared to play active roles in carrying out the move. Despite their stated willingness to work for an opposition union, skeptics wonder what stance each faction leader would take when it came to nominating candidates for the local elections, for instance. The skeptics ask: Would they give up the interests of their factions willingly for the good of the whole? Another area that would pose quite a problem is inclusion of dissidents, analysts said.

A merger of the three opposition parties would be much easier than a union of all "dissident personalities," some of whom espouse radical politics. In this connection, keen public attention was focused on the recent formation of "the new era plaza," a group that includes DP lawmakers like Yi Pu-yong, Che Chong-ku and Yim

Chae-chong and such dissidents as Kim Kon-tae and Chang Ki-pyo. A majority of DP members are said to favor embracing dissidents in a proposed opposition alliance. But there could be many—most of them unexpected—problems as it would mean a union of establishment politicians with dissidents, the analysts said.

As for the United People's Party, a merger with the other opposition parties would present a much more difficult problem. Party representative Kim Tong-kil has responded to the overture for an opposition alliance but Rep. Han Yong-su and others are advocating "a union in stages." In other words, they want their party to embrace small splinter parties and groups and independent lawmakers first before talking about an opposition alliance.

Rep. Han Yong-su said, "We are not against a unified opposition party, but we believe we have to build our party up first by absorbing splinter groups."

As these comments indicate, the proposed grand opposition alliance is still on the drawing board. It can enter the starting blocks only when all parties and groups arrive at a consensus on unity.

Commentary on Anniversary of 19 Apr 'Revolution'

*SK1804055394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0523
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The nation on Tuesday marks the 34th anniversary of "the April 19 revolution," which toppled the corrupt regime of Syngman Lee and carries deep significance for President Kim Yong-sam as he claims to be the legitimate heir to the spirit of reform and political integrity.

As soon as Kim was inaugurated as the first civilian president in more than three decades last year, he officially placed the April 19 uprising in its proper historical context, calling it "a revolution."

Kim has not only issued orders to "sanctify" the tombs of those felled by the bullets of policemen during the student-led uprising, but also became the first president to visit the Suyuri cemetery and pay his respects to the dead.

President Kim's particular feeling for the revolution is not unrelated to the government's plans to host commemorative activities with bereaved family members and other groups associated with the event, sources said.

Government preparations come as the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the main opposition Democratic Party are locked in debate over which side boasts more members who played an active role in the uprising.

"What the students aimed for on April 19, 1960, was precisely the democratization of the country," President Kim said.

It was a popular uprising against corruption and injustice and intended to realize a just and clean society, Kim said.

Kim placed his civilian government "on the extension" of the April 19 revolution and vowed to develop its spirit, according to the presidential office at Chongwadae.

President Kim has visited the cemetery on April 19 every year except in 1981 and 1982, when he was under house arrest.

Time and again, Kim has emphasized that historical evaluations of the April 19 uprising must be revised since the administrations of former Army generals that followed have tried only "to beautify" the military coup on May 16, 1961.

The April 19 uprising toppled the Lee government but, taking advantage of the ensuing political chaos, Gen. Pak Chong-hui and his associates in the military grabbed power a year later.

Since the student uprising have been belittled under the Pak government and its successors with dubious legitimacy, President Kim believes his administration must help correct inaccuracies about the uprising and preserve its historical significance.

Under a presidential order, Seoul City started last October to double the size of the Suyuri cemetery and build a commemorative building there costing 15 billion won. The renovation work is expected to be completed on April 19, 1995.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang will attend a ceremony sponsored by the government. Smaller ceremonies on the provincial and municipal levels and other commemorative events are scheduled.

President Kim, the heads of the two other branches of government and some 500 dignitaries are expected to pay their respects at the cemetery.

Final Agreement Reached on High-Speed Train

*SK1804090994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0841
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The Korea high-speed rail construction authority has agreed to pay 2,101.6 million U.S. dollars to Gec Alsthom in return for the Anglo-French consortium's supply of trainsets and technology in connection with the multi-billion-dollar Seoul-Pusan high-speed railway project.

The authority said Monday it will use the trainsets, related equipment and overall control system of Gec Alsthom's "train a grand vitesse" (high-speed train) on the 430.7-kilometer Seoul-Pusan line.

Under the agreement, the French company is also supposed to transfer TGV construction technology to South

Korean companies—Hyundai Precision and Industry Co., Daewoo Heavy Industries Co. and Hanjin Heavy Industries Co.

Pak Yu-kwang, president of the Korea high-speed rail construction authority, said a contract will be drawn up soon paying Gec Alsthom 6,009.5 million French francs for trains made by the French company and 1,069.8 million dollars for those made by South Korean firms.

The price was about 270 million dollars lower than Gec Alsthom had suggested last July.

The financing will come from France's export and export-related funds, carrying the condition of repayment in 10 years with an eight-year grace period.

The South Korean authority and France's Banque Indosuez are discussing other details of redemption such as interest rates, Pak said. The agreement enables the South Korean authority and Gec Alsthom to embark on the Seoul-Pusan high-speed railway construction project, which is expected to finish by 2002. The authority sent a report on the agreement to the Transportation Ministry Monday and is awaiting government approval. The ministry will approve the agreement after consultations with the government committee on high-speed rail construction and President Kim Yong-sam before the authority draws up the final contract with Gec Alsthom in May, Pak said.

To ensure the TGV's performance and transfer of all technology, South Korean manufacturers and the authority will jointly participate in the TGV construction from the design stage, according to Pak. The TGV should be given the international quality control standard "ISO-9000" series and Gec Alsthom will help the South Korean firms secure the ISO standards, according to the agreement.

The authority and Gec Alsthom will cooperate to wind up all technology transfers by the year 2002 so that South Korean businesses can make TGV trains on their own from then on. The South Korean companies will secure the intellectual property rights for the transferred technology, and they are supposed to give 2 percent of the selling price for 12 and a half years from the contract day if they make deals to transfer the TGV technology to third countries.

The TGV will begin service between Seoul and Taejon from the year 2000 and run between Seoul-Pusan line from 2002. Meanwhile, the TGV's top speed on the Seoul-Pusan line will be 300 kilometers per hour, according to the authority.

Court Makes Historic Sexual Harassment Ruling *SK1804081494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0720* *GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The Seoul District Civil Court's ruling on Monday in favor of the plaintiff in a sexual harassment case has set an important precedent for women facing similar troubles.

The case was brought by a Seoul National University (SNU) teaching assistant, identified only as Miss U, against her professor known as Mr. Sin, seeking 50 million won (about 62,000 U.S. dollars) in compensation for mental anguish due to sexual harassment. Presiding Judge Pak Chang-u of the court's panel No. 18 ruled, after nearly six months of hearings, that the defendant must pay 30 million won to the plaintiff.

The judge decided that although the defendant claimed the plaintiff took action to gain revenge for her dismissal as a teaching assistant last August, her anguish caused by the defendant's sexual harassment, such as unnecessary physical contact, "is recognized in view of the witnesses of the plaintiff and her colleagues and other evidence."

The historic ruling is expected to spur many women suffering sexual harassment to take action at the risk of disclosing their secret problems.

In the court struggle, the defendant was supported by women's organizations and the SNU student government, which put up posters on campus last August charging Professor Sin with frequent sexual harassment—trying to embrace Miss U from behind and rubbing her shoulders, for example. The women's organizations and the student government also formed a joint committee to draft measures against sexual harassment.

Professor Sin filed a countersuit charging Miss U with libel, claiming she brought the case merely to take revenge for her dismissal.

After four court hearings over nearly half a year, the verdict at last went in favor of the plaintiff.

The joint committee welcomed the ruling, calling it historic in that it has set a favorable precedent for women subjected to sexual harassment. But it noted that the ruling overlooked sexual discrimination and disadvantages in employment, thus failing to recognize sexual harassment as a social problem.

A poll of 458 working women conducted by the joint committee last November showed 87 percent of the respondents had experienced sexual harassment. Only 17.5 percent said they had taken action against their tormentors, including demanding an apology. Miss U's lawyer, Yi Chong-kol, said the ruling greatly increases the possibility that women will win sexual harassment cases in the future.

Burma

Deputy Trade Minister Leaves for PRC Trade Fair

BK1104153994 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Deputy Trade Minister Colonel Aung Thaung left Yangon [Rangoon] for Hong Kong by air this morning to attend the 75th Anniversary Spring Festival to be held in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China [PRC], from 15-30 April and the PRC Machinery and Electronics Fair '94 to be held in Shenzhen from 18-24 April.

Economic Restrictions on South Africa Lifted

BK1804083594 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF BURMA in English 31 Mar 94 p 12

["Press Communique"]

[Text] The Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], pursuant to the political and constitutional process in South Africa, which have ensured the elimination of apartheid and in compliance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution lifting economic sanctions against that country, has decided to end the economic restrictions and prohibitions it had hitherto imposed on South Africa with effect from 23 March 1994.

Paper Assesses Relationship With Singapore

BK1704101194 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF BURMA in English 28 March 94 p 6

[Perspectives: "To Strengthen Existing Ties"]

[Text] Singapore is our friend. The leaders and the peoples of Myanmar [Burma] and Singapore enjoy close affinity in that they were under colonial rule, and had shaken off the shackles not just once.

Today, Singapore is a shining example of success through sheer dint of their leaders having strived to achieve, and also deliver as they have vowed. Under capable leadership, the city-state shows others what they must do if they are to succeed likewise.

Myanmar and Singapore have a record of longstanding bilateral relations. Way back in September 1952, when Singapore was still a Crown colony attached to Britain, Myanmar maintained a consulate in there. Its status was raised to Consulate-General in April 1961.

Myanmar accorded recognition to the new Republic of Singapore on 14 August 1965, barely five days after it withdrew from Malaysia and became an independent and sovereign state.

The following year, on 12 August, Myanmar and Singapore established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial

level when U Pe Kin, the doyen of the Myanmar diplomatic corps and then resident in Kuala Lumpur was concurrently accredited to Singapore until his retirement in February 1971.

The leaders of Myanmar and Singapore have enjoyed mutual regard. Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew is synonymous with discipline and safeguarding of Asian values and those junior to him are understood here in this country as being no less fastidious when it comes to defending and upgrading what is Asian and good.

There have been exchanges of visits by top leaders, either formal or informal, and the mutual esteem they have shared is reflected by the sentiments of the peoples.

Myanmar has the resources, Singapore has the expertise. A combination of the two has brought forth fruitful results. Recently, when there was economic change, Singaporean entrepreneurs were among the first to see how much they could invest for mutual benefit.

Singaporeans know what can be achieved together, with a sense of mutual accommodation, and they find investments in Myanmar hold good prospects.

Singapore has also much to offer in the field of development, and being one of the 'Four Tigers', we can count on her to help us with almost anything we might want to do, plainly put.

Premier Goh Chok Tong is no stranger to us. He has been here before and his arrival today reassures us of further cementing the already strong ties.

Border Agreement Signed With PRC, Laos

BK0804163894 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] A ceremony to sign a trilateral agreement between the Governments of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], the People's Republic of China [PRC], and the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on the PRC-LPDR-Myanmar border tri-junction point was held today at the Foreign Ministry Annex Building in Yangon [Rangoon].

U Aye Lwin, director general of Consular Affairs, International Treaties, and Research Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Liang Feng, ambassador of PRC, and Mr. Kideng Thammavong, ambassador of Laos, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Karenni Rebel Leader Dies of Heart Failure

BK1604092194 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Mae Hong Son—Karenni rebel President Saw Maw Reh died of heart failure Monday at the Thai-Burmese border village of Ban Huai Surin in Khun Yuam District here, a Karenni rebel officer said yesterday.

He is survived by his wife and six children.

The Christian burial ceremony was held at Na On Village inside Burma near his headquarters on Wednesday.

Saw Maw Reh, 74, the president of the ethnic Karenni government since 1992 until his death, formerly served in the British army until 1948.

He later joined the ethnic Karenni rebel group to fight for self-rule from Burma.

Saw Maw Reh began suffering heart problems last year. He died on his return from the provincial town where he had received medical treatment, said the officer.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Commentary Hails Mahathir Visit to Cambodia

BK1704130094 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] A new era in Malaysian-Cambodian relations has begun with the three-day visit this week of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed to Phnom Penh. The ties between the peoples of the two countries had begun centuries ago. The relations have always been cordial. In Dr. Mahathir's words, Malaysia will take every means to improve the existing interaction. Cambodia has always remained close to the hearts of Malaysians. The civil war that had raged in that country with the government facing the lots of the three guerrilla factions had been a matter of deep concern for the Malaysian Government and people. Malaysia was in the forefront among countries that wanted Cambodia to return to a peaceful era. Malaysia played a leading role in the Cambodian peace process and in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia or UNTAC.

Malaysia has always felt that peace in Cambodia is vital for the stability and prosperity of the Southeast Asian region. In his talks with the Cambodian president [as heard], Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and co-prime ministers, Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen, Dr. Mahathir invited Cambodia to consider becoming a member of the ASEAN family. With the participation of Cambodia and possibly Vietnam and Laos, ASEAN can turn into a vital organization for regional cooperation. A more united Southeast Asia will make countries of the region stronger and more capable of facing the challenges of the future in a world that is becoming increasingly competitive. The Malaysian premier expressed his hope that ASEAN with the participation of all the ten countries of the region, including Myanmar [Burma] can work with the other countries of East Asia to develop a more resilient and progressive pattern of prosperity in the region. Already,

Southeast Asia is now acknowledged as one of the fastest growing economic regions in the world. With the entry of the other four countries, ASEAN can become an entity that will be looked upon with awe and admiration.

A fruitful outcome of the Malaysian premier's visit to Cambodia is the agreement between the two countries to set up a joint commission to enhance bilateral cooperation. Cambodia is already benefiting from the Malaysian technical assistance program. It has also requested Malaysia's help in the areas of training, rural development, oil refinery and exploration, forest management, and the rehabilitation of its palm oil and rubber plantations. Cambodia has also sought Malaysia's advice on the setting up of free trade zones. Malaysia is ready to send its officers to conduct seminars and training courses for their Cambodian counterparts. Cambodia has opened its doors to foreign business investment. The large number of businessmen and entrepreneurs in Dr. Mahathir's delegation is reflective of Malaysia's keen interest in that country's economic reconstruction and development program.

Commentary Views Mahathir's Visit to Laos

BK1804104594 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's first ever visit to Laos has laid the impetus for the development of two-way trade and investment. The move will help Laos to integrate with the world economy. To this end, a bilateral payments agreement has been signed. The pact will facilitate increased two-way economic and investment linkages. At the same time the agreement reinforces the investment guarantee agreement signed in 1992.

The visit is also significant for it demonstrates Malaysia's commitment to the economic development of Laos in the context of South-South cooperation. With this, more Malaysian investors will be encouraged to invest in Laos.

Malaysia is not contented with enhancing only bilateral links with the Indochinese nation. It wants Laos to be an important part of Southeast Asia, thereby positioning itself to contribute significantly to ASEAN. To this end, Malaysia will do its utmost best to facilitate its entry into the six-member grouping. By being a member, it will be able to participate in regional development projects. For example, the Growth Triangle concept could be extended to this part of Southeast Asia. In addition, ASEAN could emerge as a stronger grouping. This is why Laos, along with other Indochinese countries, must strive for economic development. Even more vital is that these countries must resolve whatever problems they have in a peaceful manner. They only know too well the destruction and untold misery of war. It is a new era for ASEAN and Laos must be part of this economic prosperity and the great need to preserve understanding, the

sentiment of goodwill and nurture cooperation in view of the global changes and development.

Therefore, ASEAN has the ability to go forth in development—to be more effective with the full membership of ten countries including Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar [Burma]. With this, Dr. Mahathir's visit to Laos is all the more significant. Although Malaysians have gone into logging, road construction, and hotel renovation, there is much potential for expansion. Malaysia has lots to offer in terms of expertise in areas such as mining, timber extraction, plantation management, and downstream processing of agriculture and mineral resources. Other areas include finance, engineering consultancy, infrastructure, and tourism. Since Laos has given priority to developing its energy needs, Malaysian companies should look to exploiting this potential. It is important that businessmen of both countries have greater contacts. For Laos, it will help in transforming its national economy to one based on market forces. Malaysians can gain in terms of new markets as well as through reversed investments by taking advantage of cheaper costs in Laos. The shortcomings and bottlenecks faced in Laos indeed provide opportunities which can be exploited by Malaysians.

Currently, Malaysia's investments in Laos is not substantial. But this could be a thing of the past if Laos' economic potential is truly exploited for mutual benefit. In this way, Malaysia would have done its part in assisting a fellow Southeast Asian country in taking its rightful place as an important part of the region.

Iraqi Foreign Minister on Three-day Visit

Talks on UN Sanction Held

BK1504142394 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia will play a role to have the UN economic sanction against Iraq lifted if the country has indeed satisfied the conditions imposed by the world body. Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said Malaysia felt that if the UN conditions had been satisfied, the economic sanction should be reviewed.

He told reporters this after talks with visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf at his office in Kuala Lumpur. He added Malaysia wished to see peace prevail in West Asia and did not want innocent people to suffer from economic sanction. He said it was Malaysia's hope that the right and sovereignty of nations would always be respected.

Syed Hamid said Muhammad Sa'id had requested Malaysia's help in having the economic sanction against his country lifted. The Iraqi minister said that his country had satisfied all UN conditions and had submitted documents to this effect. The documents would be submitted to the Malaysian Government for further action.

Muhammad Sa'id arrived in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon for a three-day visit as part of a tour of various countries to enlist their support for the lifting of the sanction. Malaysia is the first stop for the Iraqi minister.

Holds News Conference

JN1704065994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 16 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has stressed the need to implement Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 providing for allowing Iraqi exports to the world after Iraq has honored its obligations in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

Al-Sahhaf, currently on an official visit to Malaysia, explained, in a news conference at the Iraqi Embassy in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, that the aim of his visit is to brief Malaysian officials on the latest developments in the relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council, the effects of the continued unjust blockade imposed on Iraq since 6 August 1990, and Iraq's implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that Iraq's compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions has obviously confused the UN Security Council. Evidence of this is that a majority of the permanent members states—such as China, France, and Russia—as well as nonpermanent member states are demanding that the economic blockade be lifted as soon as possible and that an appropriate timetable be set.

Asked about the extent of damage caused by the 30-state aggression, the minister explained that during the U.S.-led aggression, approximately 107,000 tonnes of explosives were dropped on Iraq, equal to six nuclear bombs similar to the type used by the U.S. forces to bomb Hiroshima at the end of World War II.

The minister said that all these explosives were dropped on Iraq's cities and on its civilian and services facilities, thus causing interruptions in civilian services, especially in the health, sanitary, and agricultural fields. As a result, he said, there has been a big increase in the mortality rate among children and the elderly.

Majles Speaker Meets Malaysian Counterpart

LD1804110094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Majles Speaker ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri, who is currently visiting Malaysia, met with his Malaysian counterpart Muhammad Zahir Bin Haji in Kuala Lumpur today and discussed the expansion of bilateral relations, particularly at parliamentary level. During their talks, the speakers of the two countries' parliaments reached agreement on setting up parliamentary friendship groups between the two countries.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also visited the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur and was briefed on the teaching activities of this university and the conditions of the Muslim students.

More Sophisticated Arms May Be Sent to Bosnia

BK1504154994 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia may dispatch more sophisticated weapons to its troops if the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is worsening and endangering the lives of Malbatt [Malaysian battalion] members. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said the dispatch of the weapons will, however, be implemented after the UN approval. Presently, the weapons used by Malbatt members are meant only for self-defense and not for combat purposes. However, if the situation changes for the worse, the government will not hesitate to send more sophisticated weapons to its troops in Bosnia. He also criticized the Serbs for detaining 18 UN peacekeeping troops in an area not far from Sarajevo on Thursday [14 April].

Speaking after he attended a ceremony to present literary awards in Kuala Lumpur, the minister said even though Malbatt members risk their lives in Bosnia, they are fearless in carrying out their duty. He added that Malbatt members will continue to serve in Bosnia under the UN peacekeeping banner because local people welcome their presence. He stressed that even though Malaysia is unhappy with the UN stand against the Serbs, it hopes that the world community will not bow to the Serbian demands.

Nation's 'Pro-Active' Role in WTO Urged

BK1804103994 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia will play a pro-active role in preparing a smooth transition from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, to the new World Trade Organization, WTO. WTO was established from the final act adopted from the ministerial conference on Uruguay Round in Marrakesh last week.

Malaysia was represented by the minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz. She said for Malaysia, the WTO agreement was signed subject to ratification. Malaysia will be an original member of WTO when the agreement comes into force.

Speaking at a news conference at her ministry in Kuala Lumpur today, Datuk Sri Rafidah said Malaysia will play an active role in the work of the preparatory committee. This will ensure that the WTO will take into account the concern and interest of all members within the scope and mandate of the WTO's (?wield). She pointed out that Malaysia, together with ASEAN and

other developing countries, resist the inclusion of extraneous issues such as labor standards or social clause into the work program of the WTO.

Nation's Trade Surplus Recorded Higher in 1993

BK1604124294 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Apr 94 p 19

[Text] Malaysia's trade surplus improved 71.1 percent to RM [Malaysian ringgit] 3.8 billion in 1993 from RM2.2 billion the previous year.

As for the month of December 1993, a trade surplus of RM388.6 million was recorded from deficits of RM850.2 million and RM479.6 million in October and November 1993 respectively.

The December surplus was, however, 50.5 percent off the RM785.4 million surplus recorded in December 1992, the Department of Statistics said.

The continued higher surplus in 1993 was attributed mainly to buoyant growth in exports which expanded 16.9 percent to RM121.2 billion compared with imports which expanded 15.8 percent to RM117.4 billion.

The main export increases were manufactured goods (up 32.7 percent), machinery and transport equipment (up 29.6 percent), and miscellaneous manufactured articles (up 9.7 percent).

The growth in imports was mainly contributed by machinery and transport equipment imports which expanded 18.4 percent and manufactured goods (up 10.7 percent).

Machinery and transport equipment and manufactured goods accounted for 70.7 percent of total imports in 1993.

The department said earnings from major primary commodities showed a mixed performance against strong growth for exports of manufactured products.

Commodities which recorded higher export revenues were thermionic valves and tubes, photocells, and others which rose 30.4 percent, while crude petroleum exports dropped 12.1 percent.

Cambodia

Malaysian Prime Minister Concludes Visit

BK1604092394 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] This morning, 16 April, the high-ranking delegation of the Malaysian Government led by His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and his wife successfully concluded its three-day visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia. Seeing the delegation off at the international airport of Pochentong were Prince

Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh and Samdech Hun Sen, respectively first and second prime ministers, and their wives; Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; H.E. Sar Kheng, deputy prime minister and co-minister of the interior, as well as other ministers and officials of the kingdom.

Also present were H.E. Deva Mohamed Ridzam, special representative of Malaysia; and other diplomats of friendly countries in Cambodia.

During its stay, the delegation was received by His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and his wife; held talks with high-level leaders of the Royal Government of Cambodia; paid a courtesy call on Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; attended a seminar on Malaysia's investment in Cambodia, and visited the Angkor Wat and Bayon temples in Siem Reap Province and a number of economic and cultural centers.

The Cambodian people wish the high-ranking Malaysian Government delegation led by H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed a safe trip back home. May the relations of friendship and cooperation between Cambodia and Malaysia prosper forever.

Officials' Views on KR Kidnappings Reported

*BK1604091594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[By Kevin Barrington]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 16 (AFP)—The British Embassy warned foreigners Saturday against travel in Cambodia because they could become Khmer Rouge [KR] targets as three foreigners abducted by the guerrillas were reported alive and well.

"We have unconfirmed reports that any foreigners may be targetted by the Khmer Rouge," an embassy statement said.

"You should take extreme care and should not travel on roads where the Khmer Rouge occasionally operate," the statement said.

If travel was absolutely necessary, foreigners were advised to move in convoys.

A senior embassy official would not speculate on whether the kidnapping of foreigners was a new Khmer Rouge tactic.

But the official said the travel advisory was in reaction to the "best available evidence" and was designed to "alert but not alarm" the expatriate community.

Co-Interior Minister Yu Hokkri told AFP that the Khmer Rouge leadership may have ordered their guerrillas to kidnap foreigners in order to use them as bargaining chips in the event of negotiations with the government.

Although the Khmer Rouge strongholds are in the north and northwest of the country, pockets of guerrillas operate in most provinces.

Australian former model Kelly Wilkinson, 24, her British boyfriend, Dominic Chappell, 25, and a British friend, Tina Dominy, whose age was not given, were reported to be alive and well, friends in the capital said Saturday.

The trio was spotted by local people near the area where they were abducted Monday by Khmer Rouge guerrillas on National Route 4, about 130 kilometres ([word indistinct] miles) southwest of the capital.

The American Embassy backed the British advisory "100 per cent" while the Australians agreed with the need for "increased vigilance and extreme caution."

An spokesman for Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans also told reporters in Canberra that the three people kidnapped were apparently in good shape.

"Elements of the armed forces have made contact with other Khmer Rouge elements in the province and apparently there are reports that they are alive and, to all intents and purposes, well," the spokesman said.

But another Australian official said there was still no ransom demand and no contact had been made with the abductors.

Two Khmer-speaking Australian police officers, who served with the recent United Nations peacekeeping mission here, were expected to arrive soon to help the efforts to secure the release of Wilkinson and her two friends, an embassy official said.

Wilkinson's father, Peter, and brother Sean, both from Queensland, Australia, arrived here Friday and were reported to have left for the southern coastal town of Sihanoukville Saturday.

Wilkinson and Chappell run a popular restaurant in the port and resort town and were returning there from the capital when they were taken by Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

The Australian's mother, Gabrielle Wilkinson, welcomed news of the sighting. "This is certainly the news we have been waiting for—a confirmed sighting," she said. "That's wonderful."

Meanwhile a representative of the aid agency Food for the Hungry International (FHI) said there was no response to a letter from King Norodom Sihanouk calling for the immediate release of one of their American aid workers, Melissa Himes.

"There was supposed to be a response mid-morning, then it was delayed," the aid agency official said, adding that there might be news later Saturday.

Himes and two Cambodian colleagues are entering their third week of captivity.

Police identified their captors as Khmer Rouge, but FHI spokesman Robin Shell said they appeared to be a rogue unit. Their affiliation was not clear.

MP Seeks To Formally Outlaw Khmer Rouge

BK1704131294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 17 Apr 94

[BY Kevin Barrington]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 17 (AFP)—Cambodian MPs are seeking to formally outlaw the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group and to evict them from premises they maintain in the country's capital, a senior government official said Sunday.

Members of the Cambodia People's Party (CPP), also known as the Phnom Penh party, part of the country's three-party coalition government, are planning to table a motion backing the action when parliament reconvenes in the next two weeks, the official said.

The parliamentarians need the support of their coalition partners in the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], to get the two-thirds majority necessary to carry the motion in the 120 strong national assembly, the government official said.

It is not known how many MPs support the move.

Co-Premier Hun Sen—a CPP leader—who was due to visit Bangkok to discuss "border problems" following allegations that the Khmer Rouge had attacked government forces from positions in Thai territory, decided to postpone the visit until after parliament had voted on the motion, the official said.

The move to outlaw the guerrillas comes after the Khmer Rouge refused co-Prime Ministers Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Ranariddh's offer of a ceasefire for the April 13-15 Khmer New Year celebrations.

Hun Sen has said the ceasefire offer was a sign of the government's willingness to negotiate with the rebels.

But the recalcitrant Khmer Rouge, which has shown no sign of compromise, appears to have exhausted the patience of both the government and King Sihanouk.

The guerrillas recent kidnapping of an Australian and two Britons further exacerbated matters, the official said.

Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng told AFP that the king advocated the move by the national assembly "to isolate the Khmer Rouge as rebels."

"We have kept the door open but the Khmer Rouge never joined the reconciliation process," Sar Kheng said, adding: "Now we should not talk anymore about keeping the door open."

Government officials said King Sihanouk was "disappointed" that the Khmer Rouge did not follow through with his recent peace proposal for the rebels.

Under the plan, certain "acceptable" members of the radical faction would be given senior cabinet posts in exchange for the Khmer Rouge ceasing all guerrilla activity, opening up their zones and merging their fighters with the national armed forces.

In a recent interview with the Phnom Penh Post, the king described the government's offensive against Pailin and its March 19 seizure of the Khmer Rouge's stronghold, as "legitimate, unavoidable and most laudable."

The Khmer Rouge office and residence facing closure under the MP's motion was set up here following the 1991 signing of Cambodia's UN-brokered peace plan, which led to elections last May.

The Khmer Rouge, however, boycotted the polls, which saw the former resistance allies in the FUNCINPEC party, and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, form a coalition government with the radical faction's arch foe, the Phnom Penh party.

Despite continuing a guerrilla campaign in the countryside against the new government, the Khmer Rouge were allowed to maintain representatives in the capital.

This anomalous situation stemmed from King Norodom Sihanouk's hopes for a national reconciliation plan which would include the Khmer Rouge, and from the government's subsequent policy of "keeping the door open" for the guerrillas.

Prior to postponing his trip to Bangkok, Hun Sen said this was one of the major issues on the agenda for his talks with the Thais.

"Some Thai officials said the Khmer Rouge are not yet illegal because they have representatives in Phnom Penh," he said.

"I want to say officially that no other people or party except the Royal Government is legitimate, and that the Khmer Rouge office in Phnom Penh is the internal policy of the Khmer Nation," Hun Sen said.

Sihanouk Blames KR for Blocking Investment

BK1804065394 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] According to what King Norodom Sihanouk said on 12 April, popular audiences will be held once a week to solve various issues on which there is a conflict of opinions between people and officials.

The second popular audience, expected to be held on 21 April, will solve various problems that are still pending. It is to be specified that at the 12 April popular audience, four major issues were solved and accommodated. Of all

the four problems, one seemed to have remained contentious. That was the issue of the Olympic market. Despite this, the king intervened to end the conflict by proposing that the Thai Bunrong company recognize that the Olympic market is 50 percent owned by traders. The king of Cambodia further said that this does not mean that the Thai Bunrong company or the government bow to traders, but it would achieve compromise and social stability. He further said that many foreign companies plan to invest in Cambodia, and the obstacle blocking this is the Khmer Rouge [KR] group.

King Norodom Sihanouk also specified that if all Cambodians agree to compromise regardless of their party affiliation, Cambodia will quickly develop, and many foreign investors will bring a lot of capital to invest in Cambodia.

Indonesia

Saddam's Envoy Arrives With Message for Suharto

JN1704125494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150
GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Jakarta, 17 Apr (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Indonesian President Suharto and foreign minister, arrived in Jakarta today.

During the visit, the minister will relay an oral message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the Indonesian president on the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council.

The minister was received by several Indonesian officials.

Reportage on Labor Riots, Ethnic Unrest

40 Arrested in North Sumatra

OW1604074494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709
GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Jakarta, April 16 KYODO—Arrests have increased to 40 after two days of labor-related riots in North Sumatra province, a labor activist said Saturday, though police denied the report.

Independent unionist Hasby Ansyori told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that some 40 people had been arrested by Friday night, following riots on Thursday and Friday in Medan, the provincial capital about 1,400 kilometers northwest of Jakarta.

Hasby is an executive of the Indonesian Prosperity Trade Union, an independent union which has challenged the government's policy of only allowing one trade union, the All Indonesia Workers Union.

Contacted by telephone in Medan, Hasby said the number of arrests may continue to increase.

The police have denied Hasby's claim, saying they have only arrested four demonstrators.

About 20,000 workers Marched Thursday, and 51,000 on Friday, demanding an official investigation into the death last month of one of their colleagues.

The workers were protesting the death of 22-year-old Rusli, a worker at a Medan-based company, after he took part in a labor strike which was crushed by government troops. Rusli's body was found floating in a river three days after the March 11 strike.

Police reports said that by Saturday morning about 165 shops and homes, mostly owned by residents of Chinese descent, were destroyed and looted. Dozens of cars were set ablaze.

A Chinese businessman of PT Sumatra Blue Company, identified as Yuli Kristanto, 53, was killed in Friday's rioting when his car was pelted with stones by demonstrators.

Armored Vehicles Deployed

BK1604131994 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953
GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Medan, Indonesia, April 16 (AFP)—Armoured vehicles and thousands of police and military officials were deployed Saturday in Medan, North Sumatra, one day after labour protests turned into ethnic violence against the Chinese minority, a military official said.

"Four battalions of police and military officials remain on alert here in anticipation of anti-ethnic-Chinese demonstrations," Medan Military District Commander Lieutenant Colonel Agus Ramadan told journalists.

This adds up to about 2,600 security personnel.

"The demonstrations might peak on Monday or Tuesday," Ramadan said.

Tens of thousands of workers staged demonstrations in Medan Thursday and Friday, demanding an investigation into the suspicious death of one of their colleagues last month.

The battered body of Rusli, a worker of Rubber industry PT Industri Karet Deli, was found in a local river one day after he had led a workers protest in March. But officials did not investigate his death.

Workers also asked for better conditions and higher wages, as well as the right to organize in independent labour trade unions. The government only recognizes the official All Indonesia Workers Union (SPSI).

Violence erupted on Friday when security forces tried to stop the demonstration, which was heading to downtown Medan.

Some angry demonstrators then pelted shops, factories and vehicles, witnesses said. The violence appeared

aimed at ethnic Chinese, who are often the target of jealousy because of their general economic success.

An estimated 40 to 50 shophouses and six cars were burnt, at least 150 shops and houses were destroyed, sources told AFP.

Ramadan confirmed one ethnic-Chinese businessman identified as Juli Kristanto, or known under the Chinese name Wok Joe Lip, 53, was killed Friday, but declined to give details.

Ramadan said that 120 people were arrested for their alleged involvement in vandalism, murder and arson.

On Saturday, an AFP correspondent saw nine armoured vehicles parking along the main residential areas inhabited by many ethnic Chinese. A journalist of Medan-based WAPADA daily said by telephone that dozens of other armoured vehicles were deployed on the suburban areas.

Most of the shops, private banks, private ethnic-Chinese schools were closed in that city of 1.5 million, whose ethnic Chinese community makes up one third of the population.

Lieutenant Colonel Ramadan said that the anti-ethnic-Chinese demonstration was prompted by workers' dissatisfaction over the annual bonus which was given before the Muslim celebration of Idul Fitri in March. There was also news of a 430-million-dollar scam at a state bank involving ethnic Chinese businessman Eddy Tansil.

Demonstrators also protested against the involvement of the military in labour disputes, the chairman of the independent Jakarta-based Welfare Labour Union (SBSI), Mukhtar Pakpahan, told a press conference Saturday.

SBSI, insisting the strike should be the last option for workers, was behind the first strike on Thursday, Pakpahan said. But, he added, "other parties have made use of the situation the following day, creating chaos and violent demonstrations."

Pakpahan called on the government to stop using security measures as a way of dealing with labour.

"SBSI urges the government not to use the security approach and [word indistinct] actions to handle strikes," Pakpahan said.

Suharto on 'Firm Action for Protestors'

BK1704131794 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Speaking to Air Force officers who visited Tapos Ranch in Ciawi today, President Suharto said that firm action should be taken against protesters involved in destruction because the acts of these irresponsible persons are detrimental to society. He reminded that a permit is basically needed for every demonstration. The

government will tolerate such a demonstration if it is within normal limits. If, however, the demonstration is exploited by irresponsible persons and leads to destruction, firm action will be taken against them.

More Focus on Medan Urged

BK1804075894 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 18 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] REPUBLIKA and KOMPAS believe that violent actions, like the recent protest demonstrations in Medan, require serious attention from the authorities. REPUBLIKA says the incident in Medan has destroyed the image of the labor movement and expressed hope that the incident will serve as an important lesson for both the government and businessmen.

Meanwhile, KOMPAS describes as correct and praiseworthy the remarks made by the chairman of the North Sumatra regional chapter of the Coordinating Agency for the Strengthening of National Stability to the effect that the agency will help solve the issues of the minimum wage and workers' rights because this will lead to a fair and harmonious relationship between workers and employers.

Aceh Terrorist Leader Killed by Military

BK1604090794 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Security forces yesterday shot dead Aceh terrorist leader T. Yun, who had been at large since 1989, following a skirmish on Syia Kuala Road, Simpang Beuraweh, Banda Aceh. Infantry Colonel Rudy Supriatna, commander of the 012 Teuku Umar Military Resort Command, said the military personnel intercepted T. Yun, who had twice sent Aceh terrorists for training in Libya, thanks to information given by citizens who did not want to be terrorized by his group. T. Yun had used five pseudonyms. The shooting of the Aceh terrorist leader, which was preceded by a pursuit by the military personnel on Syia Kuala Road along the Krueng River, was witnessed by thousands of people.

Laos

Prime Minister Mahathir Begins Official Visit

Arrives in Vientiane

BK1604150894 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Excerpts] In response to an invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], H.E. Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, accompanied by his wife, led a high-level delegation of

the Malaysian Government to Vientiane by a special airplane at 1000 today for a three-day official friendship visit to the LPDR.

The Malaysian prime minister, his wife, and the delegation were accorded an honorable welcome at Wattai Airport in Vientiane. Attending the welcome ceremony were H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon of the LPDR and his wife; H.E. Khamphoui Keoboulapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee; ministers and deputy ministers; and a large number of high-ranking officials and residents of Vientiane.

After the special plane had landed at the airport, H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, his wife, and the delegation walked down from the plane. They were warmly welcomed by H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, his wife, and his delegation. Then an official welcome ceremony took place. Malaysian and Lao national anthems were played respectively by the Lao People's Army band. [passage omitted]

After the official welcome ceremony, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon and his wife accompanied H.E. Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, his wife, and the delegation to proceed in a motorcade from the airport to the Government's guest hall, a place for the high-level delegation of the Malaysian Government to stay during the visit.

The 81-member Malaysian entourage include H.E. Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, minister of foreign affairs; H.E. Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, minister of primary industries; and businessmen and high-ranking authorities of Malaysia.

At 1230, the high-level Malaysian delegation paid a courtesy call on H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the LPDR, at the Presidential Palace.

Later at 1600 on the same day, H.E. Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and the delegation called on and held discussion with H.E. Khamtai Siphandon and the delegation at the Prime Minister's Office.

At 1700, H.E. Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed planted an oil palm tree along Thon Pheng road.

At 1900, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, LPDR prime minister, and his wife will host a banquet in honor of the visit by H.E. Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, his wife, and the delegation.

PASASON Welcomes Mahathir's Visit

*BK1604132994 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat
Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 16 Apr 94*

[PASASON 16 April issue: "Lao People Wholeheartedly Welcome Malaysian Government Delegation."]

[Text] In response to the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], H.E. Datuk Sri

Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, will lead a Malaysian Government delegation on an official friendship visit to the LPDR on the morning of 16 April.

In regard to this significant event in the relations between Laos and Malaysia, multiethnic Lao people throughout the country, as well as Vientiane residents, are very pleased and feel highly honored to have an opportunity to wholeheartedly welcome the delegation of the Malaysian Government. This official friendship visit to the LPDR by the Malaysian prime minister and his delegation follows an official friendship visit to Malaysia by H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon in early December 1992, during which the Lao and Malaysian governments signed agreements for the promotion and protection of investment; economic and science and technology cooperation; and air transportation. The three agreements serve as a very important symbol of the future relations and cooperation between Laos and Malaysia. Therefore, the visit to the LPDR by the Malaysian prime minister and the delegation not only shows the good friendship of Malaysian people with the multiethnic Lao people but is also a most important event in the history of the relationship between the two countries, which will become a firm base for the effective enhancement of bilateral relations and cooperation in the immediate future and in the long run and will be a new milestone. All this is to serve the interests of the two peoples of Laos and Malaysia and contribute to the continued efforts to promote an atmosphere of peace, friendship, and cooperation in the Southeast Asian region, as well as in the world.

Laos and Malaysia belong to same region, have rendered support to each other, and have shared good friendly relations and neighborly cooperation. Their peoples have similar characteristics and behavior. They love peace, maintain self-mastery and ownership of the country, enjoy independence, and admire progress and justice. They have never caused trouble for others. Neither have they interfered or invaded other countries. They have courageously carried out struggles with great endeavor and patience for a long time for the sake of the independence of their respective countries.

Malaysia is an active member of the nonaligned movement, having played a consistent role and taken a firm stance regarding the principles and objectives of the movement. Concerning this, the peoples of Laos and Malaysia have had good understanding of and trust in each other, and have thereby enjoyed good bilateral relations for a long time. Both sides have tried to promote relations in various aspects. In particular, after the visit to Malaysia by H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, Lao-Malaysian ties have improved more extensively and rapidly than before.

The multiethnic Lao people wish the official friendship visit to the LPDR by the Malaysian prime minister and his delegation a glorious success, thus contributing to the further enhancement and promotion of the relations and

cooperation between the two countries in a more expansive and effective manner. All this is for the benefits of the peoples of Laos and Malaysia, as well as for peace, friendship, and cooperation in the region and the world.

Addresses Business Seminar

BK1604133794 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] The present low-key economic cooperation between Malaysia and Laos is preventing the expansion of trade by the two countries. The lack of communications and the insight of trade opportunities in both countries is also another factor affecting the trade expansion. This was stated by Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed when addressing a seminar attended by businessmen of the two countries in Vientiane, Laos. The two-way trade amounted to only U.S. \$18 million although several Malaysians had invested in many projects in the country such as road building and hotel renovation. The prime minister expressed confidence that cooperation in various fields could be increased. The prime minister arrived in the Laotian capital today on a second leg of a visit to Cambodia and Laos. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir is expected to sign a bilateral payment arrangement pact to boost commercial ties with Laos.

Concludes Visit, Hopes for Closer Ties

BK1804083794 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed expressed hope that his just concluded visit to Laos will pave the way for a closer and beneficial relationship in all spheres between the two countries. Dr. Mahathir and his delegation left the Laotian capital of Vientiane this morning at the end of a three-day official visit. He said he was encouraged by the warmth accorded by his hosts during his stay. The prime minister was confident that this will augur well for the future relationship between the two countries. He said this in Luang Prabang yesterday.

The prime minister and his wife, Datuk Sri Datin Paduka Dr. Siti Hasmah, spent the entire day visiting several historical sites in the ancient city, the seat of the former Laotian monarchy.

Thailand

Prime Minister Chuan Calls Off Visit to Japan

OW1504084594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Bangkok, April 15 KYODO—Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has called off a visit to Japan because of its political uncertainty following Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's resignation announcement, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said Friday [15 April].

Chuan was scheduled to pay a six-day official visit to Japan from April 22 to discuss emergency rice imports and bilateral economic cooperation.

Following Hosokawa's surprise announcement on April 8 that he will resign, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak postponed a trip to Japan slated for April 18 to 21 apparently because of the anticipated government change.

PRC Assembly Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK1704133094 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 16 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] A six-member delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] Foreign Affairs Committee led by its chairman, Zhu Liang, arrived in Bangkok yesterday for a visit to Thailand as guests of the Thai National Assembly. The delegation was warmly welcomed by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Krasae Chanawong, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the delegation of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee will visit the northeastern and northern parts of Thailand to learn of the customs of the local people. In particular, the delegation will conduct an on-the-spot survey and seek opinions over the quadrangle economic development projects to be carried out among Thailand, Laos, Burma, and China. The delegation will forward the information to relevant agencies for consideration after returning home.

Krasae said that while staying in Thailand, the Chinese delegation will pay courtesy calls on Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, and chairmen of various trade associations.

Cambodians, Thais Cancel Planned Visits

Woranat Cancels Trip to Cambodia

BK1704123094 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 17 Apr 94 pp A1,A2

[Text] Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Woranat Aphichari has cancelled his planned trip to Cambodia next week, according to a Thai military source who gave no reason for the decision. The decision followed Cambodian Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen's cancellation of a planned trip to Thailand to discuss border security problems, but there was no confirmation the two were linked.

An ASSOCIATED PRESS report from Phnom Penh yesterday quoted First Premier Norodom Ranariddh as saying Second Premier Hun Sen's trip had been cancelled. The report said Ranariddh did not explain why. Hun Sen had announced earlier that he intended to make an "urgent working visit" to Bangkok, and that he intended to arrive yesterday.

A reliable source at the Foreign Ministry confirmed Hun Sen's cancellation, but said there had been no fixed date for his arrival. "It seems there is a communication gap between Hun Sen and Ranariddh," said the source, who asked not to be named. The Cambodian Foreign Ministry had advised nine days ago that Hun Sen wanted to visit Thailand after the Songkran holidays, from April 14-16 in Cambodia, but no date had been fixed, the source said.

Hun Sen said a few days later he would visit Thailand on April 16, but was informed that would be inconvenient, and the date of his arrival was left open. The Cambodian Foreign Ministry advised on Thursday that the trip was off.

The Thai Military source said yesterday Woranat's planned trip had nothing to do with current Thai-Cambodian border tensions, triggered by the fighting between Phnom Penh government troops and guerrilla forces around the former Khmer Rouge base of Pailin.

Woranat's trip had long been scheduled for April 19-20 and was at the invitation of Cambodian co-Defence Ministers Tie Banh and Tea Chamrat, but the Cambodian government had attempted to link the trip to the current tensions. The announcement of the changed travel plans came as the two governments are embroiled in a war of words over Thailand's alleged support for the Khmer Rouge. Both countries have threatened to bring the matter to the United Nations' attention.

The Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh was informed of the change in Woranat's plans on Friday. Cambodian authorities informed the embassy on Thursday that Hun Sen's trip to Thailand was cancelled, according to the sources.

An embassy source told THE NATION yesterday the decision to cancel Woranat's trip had still not been conveyed to the Phnom Penh government because Cambodians were still on holiday. Cancellation of ACM Woranat's visit followed a meeting on Friday of senior Thai government and military officials concerning security along the Thai-Cambodian border. The officials resolved to send a diplomatic note protesting "continued groundless accusations" by some Cambodian leaders that Thailand is still supporting the Khmer Rouge, and to verify Bangkok's position.

Although the protest letter has not been delivered because of the holiday, an unofficial copy was faxed to the Cambodian Foreign Ministry on Friday night. The officials at Friday's meeting also discussed the next steps if the diplomatic note fails to achieve rapprochement.

Complaints from Cambodian leaders that Thailand is assisting the Khmer Rouge have become more frequent and more public since Phnom Penh troops captured Pailin on March 19. The town had been a vital economic lifeline for the Khmer Rouge, serving as a centre for the export of logs and gemstones to Thailand.

The guerrilla group refuses to abide by the terms of a 1991 peace agreement intended to end more than a decade of civil war, and boycotted UN-supervised general elections. The elected government was subsequently formed without them.

Ranariddh said on Wednesday he was losing patience with Thailand for failing to crack down on Khmer Rouge forces, which he charges take refuge in Thai territory. He and Cambodian military leaders have also charged without presenting any evidence that Khmer Rouge tanks threatening government forces around Pailin have been operating from Thailand.

Hun Sen Cancels Thai Visit

BK1804031094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Apr 94 p A5

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan yesterday said the cancellation of the planned trip by Cambodian Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen had nothing to do with strained relations between the two countries.

Surin said the cancellation was not motivated by repeated Phnom Penh charges that Thailand was still supporting the Khmer Rouge.

Surin also denied that the cancellation partly stemmed from a fact that Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri had strongly criticized Cambodian leaders who publicly charged that Thailand provided safe haven for the Khmer Rouge fleeing Pailin after the defeat.

Cambodia's Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, during a recent visit to Malaysia, charged that Thailand was not sincere in solving the Cambodian internal conflict by still supporting the Khmer Rouge.

Prasong said that the Cambodian leader broke a promise which that the two countries would not accuse each other in public. [sentence as published] He also said that Cambodian government failed to produce evidence on the charges.

Hun Sen had previously said that he would visit Thailand after April 1 but later cancelled the trip, citing inconvenience.

Coinciding with Hun Sen's cancellation Supreme Commander ACM Woranat Aphichari's planned trip to Cambodia next week has also been called off.

However, there is no report to confirm that the two cancelled trips are related.

Hun Sen and Thai leaders were expected to discuss border security problems. His planned trip came after the Phnom Penh troops seized the Communist faction's major stronghold of Pailin early last month.

Surin said the Thai government leaders were now preparing a trip of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai to Malaysia. Therefore it would be inconvenient for Hun Sen to visit Bangkok.

Surin stressed that Thailand still wanted to foster good relation between the two countries.

"We don't want to see fighting and violence in Cambodia. We want to see peace," he said.

He also said that he did not want to let the allegations affect future cooperation between Thailand and Cambodia, citing a discovery of natural gas in the Gulf of Thailand off Cambodia in disputed territory.

Foreign Ministry Denies KR Support Charges

BK1604084894 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Regarding the accusations made recently by various leaders of the Royal Cambodian Government on Thailand's assistance to the Khmer Rouge, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to make the following points:

1. The Royal Thai Government categorically denies the accusations that Thailand has helped certain Khmer Rouge leaders to escape into Thailand and that Thailand has given support, in whatever form, to the Khmer Rouge to launch attacks on the Cambodian Government troops.

2. Thailand is surprised and disappointed by these continuing groundless accusations, because the Thai Government has clearly and consistently stated to the Cambodian leaders that it recognizes and fully supports the elected Cambodian Government. At the same time, we have firmly stated that we shall not interfere in the internal affairs of Cambodia nor do we wish to become involved in the internal fighting of that country.

3. It is certainly not in Thailand's interest to assist the Khmer Rouge or to support a continuing military conflict in Cambodia. As an advocate of peace in Cambodia and a signatory to the Paris Peace Agreement, Thailand wishes to see durable peace and prosperity in Cambodia. This fact is reflected in Thailand's untiring support for the peace process in Cambodia and in our substantial aid and assistance in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia. We strongly support the noble guidance of His Majesty Phreahbat Samdech Norodom Sihanouk that there should be genuine national reconciliation. Continued conflict in Cambodia would only erase the gains and achievements for which Thailand and ASEAN, together with the international community, have worked so long and hard.

4. The Royal Thai Government wishes to refer to the discussion between the prime ministers of the Kingdoms of Thailand and Cambodia during the official visit of His Excellency Mr Chuan Likphai to Cambodia in January 1994. We recall that the two sides agreed not to resort to the media, but would utilize established diplomatic channels to clear any misunderstandings or settle any issues which may arise.

5. It is regrettable that the Cambodian Government has not approached the Royal Thai Government to seek any

clarification concerning the alleged Thai assistance to the Khmer Rouge but instead chose to make unfair and unfounded accusations against Thailand through the press. Continued accusations by the Cambodian Government could adversely affect the good relations and understanding between the two countries and peoples, to which Thailand attaches great importance. We wish to stress once again to the Cambodian Government that the agreement reached by the prime ministers of the two countries should be strictly implemented and we would welcome any proof or concrete evidence from the Cambodia Government in support of the accusations.

6. The Royal Thai Government is seriously concerned over the border situation as a result of the continued fighting along the Thai-Cambodian border. The fighting has in many ways affected the safety and livelihood of the Thai villagers along the border areas. Therefore, we wish to urge the Cambodian Government to be especially vigilant regarding the following matters:

6.1 Not to allow its troops to intrude into Thai territory. There have been many confirmed reports on intrusions by Cambodian Government forces over the past several months in several border areas.

6.2 Not to fire into Thai territory. Shellings by the the Cambodian Government troops' artillery have on many occasions landed on Thai territory causing injuries to Thai villagers and damage or destruction to their property.

6.3 Suppress and eradicate illegal and criminal activities on the Cambodian side of the border.

Ambassador Clarifies Press Editorial on Burma

BK1704114994 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 17 Apr 94 p 23

[Letter from Thai Ambassador to Burma Wirasak Futrakun to the SUNDAY POST]

[Text] Sir: Allow me to offer my view on some points which were made in the editorial that appeared in your distinguished newspaper (THE SUNDAY POST) on 10th April 1994, entitled, "It's time-wasting telling Burma what press freedom is about."

1. I have never heard of the incident that was mentioned in the editorial involving the Thai Ambassador and the Burmese Foreign Ministry in the aftermath of the 1988 uprising in Burma. I doubted whether the Burmese Minister reportedly slammed one of Thailand's English language dailies on the table before the Thai envoy could take a seat.

For during my tenure in Myanmar [Burma] up until now, I have never encountered a display of bad temper by any of the ministers to me. The people of Myanmar on the whole are devout Buddhists like the Thai people. Therefore, such display of angry emotions is considered inappropriate.

Even during the heights of some crises, such as the Hill-491 incident, the Myanmar authorities were never rude to the Thai ambassador. Whenever a protest had to be made to the Thai side, the tone of the message of the Myanmar side was always more in sorrow that such things should not have happened between friends rather than in anger.

2. The invitation to H.E. Brig Gen Myo Thant, Minister for Information of Myanmar, to visit Thailand is not aimed at "erasing Rangoon's doubts that the (Thai) government supports press criticism of the State Law and Order Restoration Council," but is part of the high-level exchanges between Thailand and Myanmar for the purpose of promoting friendly ties between two neighbouring countries.

We need to have a long-term perspective about Myanmar as our largest immediate neighbouring country which we must maintain and promote cordial relations if we desire peace and prosperity for our people living in ten provinces along our Western border.

3. Our good-neighbour policy towards Myanmar is not based on a desire for economic gains as crassly alleged by some so-called Western experts on Myanmar. If you look at the actual foreign investment figures of the Foreign Investment Commission of Myanmar, Thailand places fourth (US \$70.17 million) behind South Korea (US \$96.38 million), the United States (US \$200.25 million), and Singapore (US \$240.63 million). There is no more logging or fishery concessions for Thai companies in Myanmar.

We pursue the present policy towards Myanmar simply because we want to have Myanmar as a good neighbour. I often told my Western colleagues that where you stand depends on where you sit. I also asked them why did the British Government pursue constructive engagement policy towards South Africa while other western countries sought to isolate and sanction it. In our case, a peaceful and prosperous Myanmar is in Thailand's national interests.

4. Regarding your objection to the names "Myanmar" and "Yangon," these are ancient and indigenous names used in our neighboring country. Myanmar has been trying to shed her colonial legacy associated with the names or the pronunciation given by her former colonial power. Does the BANGKOK POST wish to continue to constantly remind our neighbouring country of her colonial past, thereby repeatedly pouring salt into old wounds?

Wirasak Futrakun, ambassador of Thailand, Union of Myanmar.

Vietnam

Deputy Prime Minister Receives IBM Director

*BK1504144294 Hanoi VNA in English 1419 GMT
15 Apr 94*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 15—Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received here yesterday Mr. Michael Hill, managing director of IBM's Asian operations.

Speaking to his guest, Deputy P.M. Khai reaffirmed the Vietnamese Government's determination to carry out a plan for informatics development, and highly appreciated the IBM's cooperation in Vietnam's national programme on informatic technology. He expressed his wish for further cooperation with IBM in service of the socio-economic development in Vietnam.

Earlier, on April 13, the Ministry of Science Technology and Environment and IBM signed two memoranda of understanding on establishing computer science centre and on teaching English through computers. IBM plans to work with Vietnamese partners to study possibilities to manufacture computer components in Vietnam.

Czech Foreign Minister Makes Official Visit

Arrives in Hanoi

*BK1604130294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in
English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec and a company of businessmen took part in talks with Vietnamese businessmen upon their arrival in Hanoi on Saturday morning. The Czech foreign minister said the talks was an important event creating preconditions to maintain and develop traditional cooperation between the two countries. The Czech guests will stay in Vietnam until 19 April.

Holds Bilateral Talks

*BK1604145694 Hanoi VNA in English 1437 GMT
16 Apr 94*

[Text] VNA April 16—Foreign Minister [F.M.] Nguyen Manh Cam held talks here this afternoon with Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec of the Republic of Czech, now on an official visit to Vietnam.

Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec and his wife arrived in Hanoi this morning, beginning an official friendship visit to Vietnam as guest of Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

During the talks, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam highly appreciated Mr. Zieleniec's first visit to Vietnam as a new step of development in the two countries' friendship and cooperation. He reaffirmed Vietnam's desire to develop its friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries in the world community, thus positively contributing to common efforts for peace, cooperation and development.

On the Vietnam-Czech relationship, F.M. Cam stressed that Vietnam had abided by the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said that on the basis of making the most use of the existing strong points, and reasonably and flexibly applying the current conditions in each country, Vietnam and Czech could promote their bilateral cooperation of mutual benefits in various fields. He thanked the Czechoslovak Government and people in the past and the Czech Government and people at present for their precious assistance and support to the Vietnamese people in national defence and construction including personnel training. He said he hoped that the arising problems relating to the Vietnamese community in Czech would be settled through close cooperation between the competent bodies of the two countries.

For his part, Minister Zieleniec stressed that the Czech leadership highly appreciated Vietnam's position and contributions to the maintenance of the stability, development and cooperation in the region, and always attached importance to the traditional relationship between Vietnam and Czech. He said he hoped that the multi-faceted relations, especially in the fields of trade and economy between the two countries would be further developed.

During the talks Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his Czech counterpart also expressed their satisfaction at the new step of the development of the Vietnam-Czech relations. They were unanimous in holding that Vietnam and Czech had great potential to further expand their relations for the benefits of the two peoples.

Also this morning Minister Zieleniec attended a Vietnam-Czech economic seminar held here today by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Czech Embassy in Vietnam.

Speaking at this event, Minister Zieleniec said that his visit to Vietnam was not only to promote the political relations but also establish the economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Meets Vietnamese Leaders

*BK1604151894 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT
16 Apr 94*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 16—Chairman of the National Assembly Nong Duc Manh and Prime Minister received here this afternoon on the separate occasions Czech Foreign Minister J. Zieleniec and his entourage now on an official visit to Vietnam.

While receiving the Czech guests Chairman Nong Duc Manh said that Mr. Zieleniec's visit would open prospects for the traditional relationship between the two countries and peoples. He thanked the Czech Government and people's effective assistance and support to Vietnam in its struggle for national liberation in the past as well as national construction at present.

For his part, the Czech diplomat reaffirmed that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further developed.

Speaking to the Czech Foreign Minister, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed his satisfaction at the positive development of the two countries' bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, trade and personnel training.

Mr. Zieleniec stressed that the Czech Government and people considered Vietnam a close friend in Asia, and that the potentials of economic-commercial cooperation between the two countries were very great. He also said that the Czech Government would together with Vietnam push up preparations for early signing of agreements on commerce, labour cooperation, investment guarantee and promotion, avoidance of double taxation for the further development of the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

This evening Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam gave a banquet in honour of Foreign Minister Zieleniec and his party.

Also this evening, Foreign Minister Zieleniec held a press conference on the result of his visit.

Speaking at the conference, Mr. Zieleniec said that the Czech delegation had fruitful working sessions on issues relating to its relations with Vietnam, particularly economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries in the current situation.

Holds News Conference

*BK1804085494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Speaking at a press conference in Hanoi on the evening of 16 April, Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec said that, following a visit by a Czech Ministry of Economy delegation in the third quarter of last year and another visit by a Czech parliamentary delegation in late March this year, his current visit to Vietnam was a very important and useful move because it provided the Czech side with an opportunity to gather facts and study the possibility of cooperation with and investment in Vietnam in the new situation.

He disclosed that the two sides were considering the signing of agreements on labor cooperation, aviation, trade, and payment for goods. The Czech foreign minister also stressed that the visit opened a bright prospect for cooperation between Vietnam and the Czech Republic.

Indian Economic Delegation Arrives in Hanoi

Received by Vo Van Kiet

*BK1704071594 Hanoi VNA in English 1604 GMT
16 Apr 94*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 16—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here today an economic delegation of the

Indian Government led by Minister of Power N.K.P. Salve, acting co-chairman of the Vietnam-Indian Intergovernment Committee for Science, Technology, Culture, Trade Cooperation, on a visit to Vietnam, and [word indistinct] the [word indistinct] session of the committee.

At the reception, host and guest expressed their satisfaction at the non-stop development of the fraternal friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and India. They highly valued the results of the [word indistinct] session of the intergovernment committee recently held here, and affirmed that with their efforts the cooperation and friendship between Vietnam and India would be further developed on large scale and with higher effectiveness in conformity with the aspirations of the two peoples.

The Indian minister, for his part, affirmed [words indistinct] government's policy to always attach importance to the [word indistinct] and promotion of the fraternal friendship and cooperation, and be ready to share experience with Vietnam for the benefits of the two peoples and for the interests of the peace, stability and development in the region and in the world.

Minister Salve also expressed India's desire to offer Vietnam its assistance of finance and technique, experience and in the domains of natural oil and gas, energy and precious stones.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said that the relations between Vietnam and India should be further expanded in various fields and forms on the basis of mutual trust and assistance. He highly valued the achievements and experience recorded by the Indian people in economy development and national construction, and reaffirmed that the Vietnamese people had always persisted in the fraternal friendship and cooperation with India, and [words indistinct] their best to develop these relations.

Also present at the reception were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Indian Ambassador to Vietnam S.L. Malik.

Economic, Technological Cooperation Promoted

BK1604163094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] India and Vietnam have agreed to step up economic and commercial ties on par with political relations. An agreement to this effect was signed by the power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, and the Vietnamese foreign minister, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, in Hanoi today at the conclusion of the joint commission meeting. Both the sides decided to set up a joint experts group to identify new areas of trade, joint ventures and transfer of technology.

Our Southeast Asia correspondent reports that the Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation and the Vietnam Gem Company decided in principle to set up a joint venture for processing and marketing of gem stones. Earlier, Mr. Salve called on the prime minister, Mr. Vo Van Kiet.

Energy Minister Meets Vo Van Kiet

BK1604133894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] India and Vietnam are to set up an experts group to find ways to step up bilateral economic ties on par with political relations. This was decided at a meeting the power minister, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, had with the Vietnamese prime minister, Mr. Vo Van Kiet, in Hanoi today. Our Southeast Asia correspondent reports that Mr. Kiet welcomed India's offer to participate in power and mining sectors. He invited a team from India to assess the hydel [hydroelectric] and thermal power potential in Vietnam.

Bilateral Agreement Signed

BK1804112594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] At the invitation of SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, His Excellency N.K.P. Salve, Indian Minister of Power and acting co-chairman of the India-Vietnam Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Trade, Cultural, and Scientific-Technological Cooperation [IVCETCSC] has arrived in Vietnam to attend the sixth conference of the commission from 14 to 17 April.

During its stay in Vietnam, the Indian delegation visited President Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and his residence and office in Hanoi. The delegation paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and held a working session with General Doan Khue, minister of national defense; Dang Vu Chu, minister of light industry; Tran Lum, minister of heavy industry; and Thai Phung Ne, minister of energy.

Minister Salve conveyed Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's greetings and kind regards to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and briefed him on the results of the sixth IVCETCSC conference.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed his delight at the fine development in the relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and India. He affirmed the close relationship between Vietnam and India and expressed the hope that this relationship would be strengthened and developed.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet asked Minister Salve to convey his invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to pay an official friendly visit to Vietnam.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Minister Salve jointly chaired the sixth IVCETCSC conference. At the conference, both sides reviewed past tasks and noted with pleasure the achievements recorded in implementing various agreements signed during the visit to India by General Secretary Do Muoi in 1992 and the visit to Vietnam by Indian Vice President Narayaman in September 1993, as well as agreements reached at the fifth IVCETCSC conference. Both sides also discussed

concrete measures and orientations aimed at developing all potentials in enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

The Vietnamese side welcomes and encourages Indian businessmen to invest in and enter joint ventures with Vietnam in medium and small-scale industrial projects such as the production of sugar and cement and processing of tea and rubber. The Vietnamese side also highly appraised India's assistance to Vietnam in the economic, scientific-technological fields, and in training cadres. It also expressed the hope that this assistance would be continued and expanded.

The Indian side pledged that efforts would be made to create favorable conditions for Vietnamese cadres and students to further their post-graduate studies in India, especially in the fields of economics, science-technology, and art and literature.

At the end of the conference, both sides signed a memorandum of agreement on economic, trade, cultural, and scientific-technological cooperation between the two nations.

On 17 April, His Excellency Salve left Hanoi for home, concluding his official visit to Vietnam with splendid success.

General Secretary Do Muoi Receives Russia's Yarov

BK1704142794 Hanoi VNA in English 1405 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—Party General Secretary Do Muoi received in Ho Chi Minh City today Yuriy Yarov, deputy prime minister [P.M.] of the Russian Federation, who is on a visit to Vietnam.

Deputy P.M. Yarov informed General Secretary Do Muoi of the results in the third session of the Russia-Vietnam Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Commercial and Scientific, Technological Cooperation held in Hanoi recently, and valued that agreements recorded at the session are very important, establishing basis for the renovation of methods, expanding cooperation fields and raising effectiveness of the economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries in new stage.

He praised Vietnam's achievements in its economic development, and wished that the Vietnamese people would gain greater achievements in their national construction.

For his part, General Secretary Do Muoi said that the Communist Party and the people of Vietnam always bear in mind and show deep gratitude to the Russian people for their previous support and assistance to Vietnam in its national liberation and construction. He further said that Vietnam wants to maintain the existing cooperation and expand new cooperation fields with Russia as well as with other republics in the former

Soviet Union on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and respect of independence and sovereignty.

Visits by Swedish, Australian Leaders Reviewed

BK1604150994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt and Prime Minister Paul Keating of Australia visited Vietnam in the first fortnight of April. Here is our review of these visits:

The two prime ministers came to Vietnam with a view to broaden cooperation with Vietnam. The Swedish prime minister inaugurated an Ericsson mobile communication system in Vietnam. The Ericsson Group of Sweden is a well known manufacturer of electronic and telecom equipments. The visit to Vietnam by Australian prime minister came after the two countries reached an agreement on the construction of My Thuan Bridge crossing the Tien River in southern Vietnam. This makes Australia rank the first among investors in construction in Vietnam as well as of all Indochina.

From either side of the Earth, Sweden and Australia have one thing in common, that is to contribute to the construction of Vietnam infrastructure, one of the most essential needs of Vietnam at the present moment.

The Australian prime minister also announced \$140 million of aid to Hanoi to help the latter continue its renovation process. Sweden has also so far [word indistinct] granted aid to Vietnam. With the visit to Vietnam by Prime Minister Carl Bildt, Sweden plans to boost the economic ties with Vietnam. It is a new decision taken by Sweden.

Both Australian and Swedish leaders acknowledged the positive results of the ongoing renovation process in Vietnam. The truth created by Vietnam itself has urged more countries to invest in the country.

Canadian Delegation in Hanoi for Bilateral Talks

BK1504150594 Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 15—Vietnam and Canada held talks here to day on their cooperation and transport.

Heading the two countries' delegations to the talks were First Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications Le Kha and Canadian Minister of Transport Douglas Young, now on an official visit to Vietnam.

Also present at the talks, on Vietnamese side, were senior officials the Civil Aviation Administration, the Marine Navigation Administration, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the Canadian side were Charge d'Affaires of the [words indistinct] and a number of businessmen.

The Vietnam-Canada cooperation in transport and cooperation in recent years has seen good prospects. During the talks the two sides informed each other of possibility for cooperation, especially in marine, civil air service, construction, transportation infrastructure and personnel training. The Vietnamese side highlighted some issues and projects including the projects on upgrading national highways, on improving the railway system in inner Hanoi city, and on building The Can Tho bridge across the Hau River.

Deputy Minister of Transport Le Kha and Minister of Transport Douglas Young signed a memorandum of agreement on Vietnam-Canada cooperation in transport and communications.

Vu Quang Interviewed on Relations With Vatican

BK1804040594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the 'Talk of the Week' feature]

[Text] Public attention is being paid to relations between Vietnam and the Vatican, relations relating to Vietnamese Catholics, the [words indistinct] relations. Mr. Vu Quang, director of the government committee for religious affairs, in a recent interview with the Vietnamese weekly DAI DOAN KET (Great Solidarity) provided an outline on these issues.

Mr. Vu Quang said that in the middle of last month, the Vatican sent a representative delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Claudio Celli to Vietnam for a week to work on issues relating to Vietnamese Catholics and issues of mutual concern. That follows the 1990 visit of Cardinal (?Wilsur Heshgaray) to Vietnam. The cardinal and the Vietnamese Government agreed that the Vatican would inform the Vietnamese Government of all issues relating to Vietnamese Catholics, and only make a decision upon agreement reached with the Vietnamese Government. These issues include Vatican policy, the consecration of cardinals, bishops, and issues of mutual concern. When there are contradictory opinions, the two sides will meet for discussion. Up to now, the Vatican has sent four delegations to Vietnam, and Vietnam has also sent delegations to the Vatican. Eighteen bishops have been consecrated out of the approval of the Vietnamese Government upon office from the Vatican. During the last month visit to Vietnam, the Vatican reaffirmed the 1990 agreement. The Vatican delegation acknowledged that it was illogical to have a number of dioceses without bishops, as the Vatican delayed making a decision on personnel that the Vatican has proposed in the first place in which the Vietnamese Government has already approved. This time, both sides agreed to find a solution to the issue soon. The Vietnamese Government has agreed on the personnel proposed by the Vatican and to the bishops of Hanoi and Hue dioceses.

As for the cases of Khanh Hoa and Thanh Hoa provinces, the Vietnamese Government will consider an answer to Vatican in the shortest period of time. In Ho Chi Minh City, both sides agreed to keep up Archbishop Nguyen Van Binh in his position with full responsibility and power. The Vietnamese Government will discuss with the Vatican the successor to the archbishop in the Ho Chi Minh City Diocese.

Vietnam makes clear that the Vatican by asking Vietnamese Catholic priests not to join the Committee of United Vietnamese Catholics with the reason that the priests should not carry out political activities, the Vatican has [word indistinct] Vietnamese law, citizen rights, and human rights for the priests who have the rights to participate in social and patriotic activities. Vietnam makes clear that while the Vatican prevented Vietnamese Catholic priests from joining the Committee of United Vietnamese Catholics and other social organizations it lets some overseas Vietnamese Catholic priests carry out political activities, and the Vatican itself, slandering the situation of Vietnamese Catholics, and against the Vietnamese Government. It is a lack of goodwill attitude towards Vietnam, causing obstacles to normal relations between the Vatican and Vietnam.

The head of the Vatican delegation will report to the responsible priesthood in the Vatican on discussion in Vietnam, to remove all obstacles to normalize relations between the Vatican and the Vietnamese Government.

Nong Duc Manh Receives Outgoing Japanese Ambassador

BK1704141894 Hanoi VNA in English 1358 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh received here yesterday Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Mr. Hiroyuki Yushita, who paid him a farewell visit at the end of his term of office in Vietnam.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh highly appreciated the ambassador's contribution to the strengthening of the cooperative friendship relations between Japan and Vietnam over the past time. He stresses that the multi-sided cooperative relations between the two countries have been and are promoted especially in the fields of economy and trade.

On this occasion, Chairman Nong Duc Manh asked the ambassador to convey his best regards to Japanese leaders. He also wished the friendly cooperative relations between Vietnam and Japan a new step of development.

The ambassador expressed his thanks to Mr. Nong Duc Manh for his warm reception, and his belief in the non-stop development of relations between the two countries, thus contributing to the development of each country for peace, stability, and prosperity of the region as well as in the world.